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Senate

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OF 2014—Continued

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Members of Congress prepare to head back to their home States, it is important to note that the 113th Congress does not end this week, or for that matter, on November 4. We still have a significant amount of unfinished business that must be resolved before the year's end, and the American people expect and deserve our commitment to getting that work done. I strongly support Majority Leader REID's decision to reconvene the Senate shortly after the elections so that we can complete work on a number of bipartisan bills that can and should be enacted this year. We were sent to the Senate by our constituents to do the work of the American people, and those responsibilities will not diminish after the election—no matter what the results.

When the Senate returns in November, I will continue to urge swift consideration and passage of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014, S.2685. This is a bipartisan bill that makes important reforms to the government's surveillance authorities, while providing the intelligence community the operational flexibility it needs to keep our country safe. That is why the bill is supported not only by the Director of

National Intelligence and the Attorney General but also by a broad coalition of privacy and civil liberties groups, the technology industry, and Members of Congress from across the political spectrum. There is no excuse for not considering it in November. If Senators want to vote against the bill, they have every right to do so, but the American public deserves to know where we stand on the issue of the bulk collection of innocent Americans' phone records, and the intelligence community deserves some measure of predictability and certainty.

I also hope that the Senate will, without further delay, take up and pass the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, S.822, and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013, S. 933. Both of these bills are noncontroversial and were reported with overwhelming support by the Judiciary Committee. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act strengthens the rights of crime victims and improves access to postconviction DNA testing to protect the innocent and improve safety in our communities. It is a common sense bill that improves the justice system for everyone involved. That is why Senator CORNYN and Senator MCCONNELL are both cosponsors of the bill and why it has the support of the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY. Despite this support from the key Republican leadership in the Senate, legislation to reauthorize the Justice for All Act—originally signed into law by President George W. Bush—is being blocked on the Republican side. Such obstructionism is unwarranted, and the Senate should at least be allowed to bring this bill up for a vote.

Republican obstruction of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act is similarly unwarranted and must stop. Just this week, we remembered and mourned the senseless killing of 12 people 1 year ago at the Navy Yard, just a few blocks

from the Capitol. Such horrifying acts of violence have become far too common, and each serves as a painful reminder of the perils faced by law enforcement every day. During the brutal firefight at the Navy Yard, a Metropolitan Police Department officer was struck in the chest. His bulletproof vest stopped the bullet. The officer was then able to return fire and take down the gunman, finally bringing an end to the violence.

Members of Congress often speak passionately about the need to stand with law enforcement. It would seem beyond dispute, then, that no officer should have to serve without protective vests. This is why Congress has historically acted in unison to support the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, which has enabled over 13,000 law enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests. Protective vests are credited with saving the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. Today, every Democratic Senator stands ready to reauthorize this lifesaving program. Yet a few Senate Republicans are blocking it. It is past time for our actions to match our rhetoric. If Republicans claim to stand with law enforcement, then surely they should stand with them when it matters most. I urge all Senators to help pass this bill as soon as we return.

There are several additional priorities of law enforcement that have bipartisan support and should receive consideration in the remaining weeks of the year. This morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported the Second Chance Reauthorization Act. I thank the broad bipartisan list of cosponsors for working with me to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer with this legislation. Communities of faith are calling on the Senate to move forward and pass this important bill and I hope we will hear their call.

This Congress we also have an opportunity to reduce dangerous prison overcrowding while actually improving

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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public safety. The relentless growth of our Federal prison population threatens not only the safety of prison staff and inmates but also the budgets of the very law enforcement programs that keep us safe. This growth is driven by inflexible and unfair drug mandatory minimums—a problem that we in Congress created, and only we can fix. The bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act would modestly reduce some non-violent drug mandatory minimums and help to preserve essential funding for law enforcement agencies and victim services. This bill would save the government money, a fact confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office just this week, and it deserves the Senate's full attention.

By the end of the year, the Senate must consider and pass S. 2454, the Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act, STELA. This law provides satellite television carriers with the necessary rights to retransmit distant television programming to consumers. If Congress does not act by the end of the year to reauthorize the distant signal license, approximately 1.5 million consumers will lose access to the broadcast television programming that they currently receive. This is particularly important in rural areas like Vermont, where many Americans rely on satellite for their television providers. Congress should act responsibly and prevent serious disruption to these consumers.

Congress also should pass reforms to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA, to bring our privacy laws into the 21st century. The Leahy-Lee ECPA Reform Act updates our digital privacy laws to keep pace with new technologies, protect civil liberties, and provide guidance to law enforcement. Congress should act swiftly to pass this bill.

Finally, the Senate is not the only Chamber that needs to get right back to work after the election. I have spoken at length before about the need for the House to allow a vote on the Senate-passed immigration bill. I hope that once they return to Washington, the House Republican leadership will finally put election year politicking and pandering aside and simply allow a vote on S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. That bill passed the Senate more than a year ago on a strong bipartisan vote, and the urgent need to pass this practical legislative fix for our broken immigration system increases with every passing day. It would immediately spur our economy and take away the pressing need for the President to act through Executive order.

The House should also consider and pass S. 42, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2013, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent almost a year ago. Senator GRASSLEY and I came together to draft the bipartisan Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act to improve the enforcement of

our Nation's antitrust laws and extend whistleblower protections to employees who report criminal violations of the antitrust laws. These include violations that are particularly harmful to consumers, such as price fixing. Again, this is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that can and should be passed overwhelmingly. There is no reason—political or otherwise—for the House of Representatives to delay its enactment.

After the upcoming elections, I plan to return to Washington to get back to the work of the people. That is why the voters of Vermont elected me, and that is what I swore an oath to do. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I intend to continue our work on nominations and oversight, as well as the legislative business pending before the Committee. I hope that the full Senate and the House will similarly press forward without delay to complete work on the array of bipartisan bills that are ripe for consideration and passage. There is simply no reason to delay or obstruct action on these bills, and no reason to further exacerbate the perception held by many Americans that Congress cannot work together to accomplish anything. I know that we can work together to pass these bills, but it will require the cooperation and commitment of all Senators. I know that Vermonters—and all Americans—are counting on us to get the work done.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares to go into recess, Senate Republicans are refusing to allow confirmation votes on the more than 20 judicial nominees who will now be stuck in limbo for months. There is no good reason why the Senate cannot confirm these nominees before the recess other than wholesale obstruction of a co-equal branch of government's nominees.

The Senate Republicans' baseless obstruction includes blocking from consideration nominations made to their home States. Right now, there are five nominations pending to fill judicial emergency vacancies in Kentucky and Georgia, which have gone unfilled for years. The Republican Senators from these States have come out in strong support for the nominees from their respective States. Yet the Republican leadership refuses to agree to schedule votes on these or any other nominations. This is simply delay for delay's sake.

Currently on the Senate Executive Calendar are qualified nominees to fill Federal trial court vacancies in Kentucky, Georgia, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Missouri. All but two of the nominees were reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support. I wonder what the constituents of these States think is causing this delay? I can assure you it is not Senate Democrats.

This Republican pattern of refusing to confirm noncontroversial, consensus nominees has gone on for the duration of this Presidency. I have sought to remind my fellow Senators that their refusal to confirm these nominations prior to an extended recess is an unfortunate departure from Senate tradition. Time and again I have urged Senate Republicans to stop their obstructive practices and delay tactics. And once again, I am disappointed to see partisanship and senseless obstruction continue to keep the Senate from fulfilling its constitutional duty of advice and consent.

It is true that since the beginning of this year we have reduced the vacancies on our Federal courts from 92 to 59, but no Senator should believe that our work is done. Even if we were to confirm the more than 20 judicial nominees currently pending on the Senate floor, the Federal judiciary remains significantly understaffed. The Judicial Conference has identified the need for 91 new judgeships in some of America's judicial districts and circuits with the highest caseloads. Last year, Senator COONS and I introduced the Federal Judgeship Act of 2013 to enact these recommendations into law. The timely administration of justice should not be a partisan issue. It is an issue that affects all Americans, and the Senate should take it seriously by passing this bill.

The recommendations of the Judicial Conference underscore the need for the Senate to fulfill its obligations to the Federal judiciary and the American people. I have heard some Republican Senators claim the opposite by citing the total number of judicial confirmation under this President. It is true that the Senate has now confirmed 278 of President Obama's circuit, district, and U.S. Court of International Trade nominees, compared to 254 confirmations at the same point in the last administration. Yet these numbers are meaningless without providing their proper context. These confirmations were sorely needed. There remain 59 vacancies on the Federal bench—far more than the 45 vacancies at this point during the Bush administration. There are an additional 25 announced future judicial vacancies on our Federal courts that will also need to be filled in the coming months. If you care about providing our co-equal branch of government with the resources it needs to serve its constitutional role, then it is important to look at the number of vacancies that still exist and how long some of them have remained empty.

Vacancies remain high not because of a failure of Senate Democrats or President Obama to make judicial confirmations a priority. These vacancies persist because of the endless obstruction of partisan Republicans who take every opportunity they can to shut down the important work of the Senate. Last year, no longer content to block individual judges, Senate Republicans attempted a wholesale filibuster of three

nominees to the D.C. Circuit, without even considering their qualifications. Then, instead of confirming the consensus judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar prior to the end of the congressional session, Republicans forced the President to renominate each nominee and for the Senate Judiciary Committee to report them again this year.

In 2014, Senate Republicans have proceeded to filibuster each and every judicial nominee. The Senate has taken 62 cloture votes on judicial nominations so far this year, amounting to well over 400 wasted hours that the Senate should have been spending considering legislation to help the American people. Never before has the Senate seen the systematic filibuster of every judicial nominee or such unfair treatment of qualified, consensus nominees.

The Senate should act quickly to confirm the judicial nominees pending on the Senate floor. Because Republican obstruction will prevent us from finishing our work before the elections, we must return to session as soon as possible after the elections in November to complete our important work. The American people deserve courts capable of providing access to swift justice, not empty courtrooms and delays.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE TESSIERI AND DEBBIE HALVERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize two long-serving members of the Senate Sergeant at Arms Office, Jeanne Tessieri and Debbie Halverson, who are retiring in October of this year.

Since 1980, Jeanne has served as the Sergeant at Arms' State Office Liaison. She runs a small—but highly effective—office that impacts every Senator in this body. As Senators, we are privileged to represent the constituents of our home States, and it is imperative that the individuals we represent have a place to bring their thoughts and concerns. Under the law, each Senator is authorized to maintain office space in our respective States, but it is subject to strict regulations. Jeanne, in her role as the State Office Liaison, became a vital resource for all Senators. She worked to ensure that every State—big or small—had constituent service space that not only fulfilled the needs of the public, but also adhered to regulation.

Jeanne has guided us in selecting and arranging for the lease agreements for each one of our State offices, and there are currently more than 450 such offices throughout the 50 States. She literally wrote the book detailing the ins and outs of obtaining and maintaining a State office that meets the strict requirements for office spaces and expenses for furnishings.

We are grateful for Jeanne's steady, confident assistance through the years. Should a problem arise, Jeanne has al-

ways been the first person to call and offer assistance to our State offices. She knows how to marshal resources to help the offices address any issue that comes up.

Debbie Halverson has been Jeanne's very capable assistant for the past 31 years. Many of us that know her also knew her father, Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson. Her departure in October will mark the end of a wonderful era of service to the Senate for the Halverson family. I commend Debbie's years of dedication to her work and this body.

I appreciate the combined 65 years of faithful service Jeanne and Debbie provided the United States Senate. I wish them the best in their future endeavors and congratulate them both on their well-deserved retirements.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR ROBERT A. CASHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank my friend, Mayor Robert A. Cashell, Sr., of Reno, for his more than three decades of public service in Nevada. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell will be retiring on November 12, 2014. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada.

Over the past 35 years, Mayor Cashell has worked at nearly every level of State and local government. Beginning with his election to the University of Nevada Board of Regents in 1979, Bob proved himself to be a strong leader with a keen ability to listen and understand the needs of those he served. Renoites and Nevadans quickly came to rely on Bob's leadership and ultimately elected him as Lieutenant Governor of the State. A skilled businessman, Bob understood the need for a coordinated State effort to spur economic development. As Lieutenant Governor, Bob Cashell helped create the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Commission on Tourism. He later went on to chair both of these vitally important State commissions.

First elected as Mayor of Reno in 2002, Mayor Cashell was subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2010. During his tenure, Mayor Cashell once again displayed his business acumen, helping transform Reno into a hub of innovation, spurring investment from some of America's most prestigious corporations. Mayor Cashell also spearheaded the continued revitalization of downtown Reno, making it a destination for special events, and creating a pedestrian and family-friendly atmosphere.

As mayor, Bob Cashell met some of Reno's most difficult social issues head on. He refused to shy away from the issue of poverty, instead developing programs to help those hardest hit by the Great Recession. Mayor Cashell was the driving force behind the creation of the Community Assistance Center, which houses multiple services, including free food and social services, for the city's homeless and needy.

In every role he has assumed, Mayor Cashell has made Nevada a better place to live. His work as mayor of the City of Reno will be dearly missed, but I have no doubt that Mayor Cashell will find some way to continue serving the people of Nevada. Although he is retiring from office, Mayor Cashell will never retire from helping others.

I wish Bob and his wife Nancy Parker Cashell all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives. I thank Nancy, their 4 children and 9 grandchildren for sharing Bob with Nevada. Our State is a better place because of Mayor Bob Cashell's many years of exemplary service.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NAN GORMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant from my home State of Kentucky. Nan Gorman who is currently serving as the mayor of the City of Hazard will retire this year upon completing her term of office.

Mayor Gorman was born in Memphis, TN, but moved to Hazard shortly after. She grew up in hard times, with the Nation reeling from the effects of a worldwide depression. Though the odds may have been stacked against her, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the Parson School of Design in New York and subsequently traveled the world on a tour of self-education.

Nan experienced so much of the world in her travels, but she saw nothing that would prevent her from returning to her "Old Kentucky Home." Back in Hazard, she married her high-school sweetheart, Bill, who was elected mayor of Hazard in 1978 and served in that capacity until his death 35 years later.

Bill Gorman was a beloved member of the Hazard community. When he died in October of 2010, however, Nan was appointed to serve as interim mayor and the town did not skip a beat. Nan performed so well in her interim role that she was voted into office by a 3-1 margin in the next election.

Although Mayor Gorman will step down at the end of her term, her love for the City of Hazard has not decreased in the slightest degree, and she is planning on running for one of the city's four commissioner seats.

Nan Gorman's dedication to public service and her community set a shining example for us all, and I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing her illustrious career.

Mr. President, though I admittedly possess a strong bias towards the author, who happens to be my wife, Secretary Elaine Chao, Politico published what I found to be an exceptional article on Mayor Gorman last year. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Politico, Nov. 17, 2013]

EMBRACING HER OLD KENTUCKY HOME

(By Elaine Chao)

Deep in the heart of Kentucky's rugged Eastern Mountain region there lives a woman who has fascinated and inspired me for two decades. She is known locally these days as "Mayor Nan"—the octogenarian chief executive of Hazard and advocate for its 5,467 residents.

Nan Gorman was born in Memphis, Tenn., on St. Patrick's Day. She moved to Hazard in 1929 when her father, James Hagan, a recent medical school graduate and aspiring surgeon, went to work there. The stock market was about to crash and soon the Great Depression would be under way and take a brutal toll on the rural mountain economy. In the early days, her father was often paid for his services with chickens and eggs. Later, her father became chief surgeon for the region at the Hazard Hospital.

Hazard was not just small but remote because of the lack of roads in the region so the Hagan family, with little Nan in tow, traveled there from Tennessee via Virginia mountain passes. Nan's parents, who she says still inspire and guide her today, ensured that she had a good education and gave her the opportunity to attend college but, as was prevalent then, expected that she would soon settle down as a young woman, marry and have children.

She eventually did all that, but not until after she had experienced some of the world far from Hazard and her beloved eastern Kentucky mountains that she says "are like the arms of a mother around us." So enraptured was she with the natural beauty around Hazard that she became an artist to record scenes in pencil, ink, watercolors and oil paints.

After World War II, Nan graduated from the University of Cincinnati and attended the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City. With an adventurous spirit, Nan flew to Egypt by herself to study ancient history and then traveled on for solo explorations of Greece, Rome, Paris and London. Having been exposed to such exotic, vibrant cities so full of opportunity, one could hardly have begrudged a choice to make her life elsewhere. But instead, she chose to come home to Kentucky. She got an apartment in Lexington and worked as a freelance artist drawing advertisements for clothing stores, doing architectural renderings and sketching historical landmarks. One day she saw a classified advertisement in which the state was looking for a full-time artist, and she subsequently became the first one ever employed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Among her tasks was designing the state seal—United We Stand, Divided We Fall—which is still in use today.

At age 50, Nan settled again in Hazard, remarried—to her high school sweetheart, Bill, and together they formed a partnership that would have a lasting impact on virtually every sphere of the community. Bill was elected mayor in 1978, served for 35 years and never accepted a salary. When he returned home to the Lord three years ago, Nan asked that donations go to a fund to benefit local public schools. Wishing to continue Bill's legacy of service to the community, Nan was subsequently elected mayor as a write-in candidate, winning by a 3-to-1 margin.

Nan's governing personal ethic is to constantly strive to do better for Hazard's residents for as long as she can. When last I spoke with her, Nan was alternately expressing pride over a young local girl's success overcoming disadvantages, helping with the Appalachian Regional Hospital's fundraising campaign and her efforts to obtain refrigerators for families in need.

An octogenarian well-deserving of retirement, Mayor Nan instead toils from sunrise to late in the evening on behalf of her town. She takes pleasure in the people and the mountain scenery and loves nothing more than to watch wildlife in her yard or to hear that some good fortune is improving someone's life. My takeaway from every visit with Nan is appreciation for the big difference that one woman in a little town can make.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a venerable institution of higher learning from my home State of Kentucky the University of Pikeville. UPike, as it is more commonly known, is celebrating 125 years of educating young minds on its campus in eastern Kentucky.

September 16 marked 125 years since the first classes were held at what was then called Pikeville Collegiate Institute. The college was founded by a group of Presbyterians, and has maintained its religious foundation ever since.

In addition to its religious background, UPike has also always maintained a strong commitment to its community. The university invests deeply in the Appalachian region through community service projects, humanitarian efforts, and its educational offerings. As former President Hal Smith remarked at the anniversary ceremony, UPike's mission has always been "to provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region."

Three other former presidents, as well as the current President Dr. James Hurley, were in attendance Tuesday for the ceremony. During the ceremony, Dr. Hurley announced a campaign to raise \$75 million for the university. It is a fitting endeavor to ensure many more years of excellence in education at the University of Pikeville.

I now ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the University of Pikeville's 125 years of excellence in education.

WYMT Mountain News recently published an article detailing the University of Pikeville's 125th anniversary ceremonies. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE KICKS OFF 125TH ANNIVERSARY BY HONORING FOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS

(By Hillary Thornton)

PIKEVILLE, KY. (WYMT).—Four former University of Pikeville presidents were on hand for a ceremony that was all about honoring their past and celebrating their future. As Tuesday marks 125 years since the first class was held at the Pikeville Collegiate Institute . . . now known as UPike.

Opening convocation officially starts the school year, however this year also marks the 125th anniversary.

Through all those years, the many additions and changes . . . all agree the mission of the institution remains the same.

Former President Hal Smith (1997–2009) says, "To provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region."

President James Hurley calls it a very surreal day, as he honors four past presidents with honorary degrees from the institution they say continues to break barriers and exceed expectations.

Smith says, "Each of us laid a little bit of a foundation for the things that are happening and clearly I think the future is very, very bright."

To help ensure another 125 years of success at UPike, Dr. Hurley announced a \$75 million comprehensive capital campaign.

"Investing in the future of Central Appalachia . . . with the decline in the coal industry we have to think about a new economy, an economy based on education," explains Hurley. He adds, "That is going to be our focus . . . we are going to raise 75 million dollars to invest in new infrastructure."

KYCOM student Fritz Stine says, "I think this definitely shows that we are moving in this trajectory and we are spearheading the future of the area."

"Working to honor their past, while planning for and celebrating their future."

COMPETITIVE PAY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, of the 21 million veterans in our country, about 750,000 live in Illinois. I hear from many of them as I travel around the State meeting with different groups. Like veterans throughout the United States, Illinois veterans are concerned about their health care. They are frustrated by lengthy wait times to get an appointment and, like all of us, they are furious about the wait list scandal uncovered this year. One factor that has contributed to the long wait times is a shortage of medical personnel at VA hospitals and clinics. In many cases there are not enough doctors and nurses to meet demand. Many of the doctors and nurses we do have are overwhelmed.

One way we can address this is to give VA doctors and nurses a raise. I am happy that VA Secretary Bob McDonald announced this morning the agency is going to lift a salary freeze on medical personnel and plans to increase compensation for the health care providers who work with our veterans. This is a positive step in improving the ailing Veterans Health Administration.

Salaries for VA doctors and nurses often are lower on average than those of their private sector counterparts, and those salaries have been frozen for 3 years. Primary care doctors and internists at VA facilities earned about 33 percent less than private sector primary care physicians in 2012, according to the Medical Group Management Association. A similar disparity can be found in nurses' pay.

Last week Secretary McDonald testified at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing that the VA needs about 28,000 new medical staffers—doctors, nurses, other care providers, and

administrative staff—to improve the timeliness of care to the 8 million veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration. We can help meet that demand if we make those jobs more competitive by adjusting the pay scale.

In the bill we passed this summer—which is now law—Congress gave Secretary McDonald the authority to fire underperformers. The other side of that coin is competitive pay for those who are performing. These doctors and nurses are caring for the men and women who put their lives at risk through military service. Let's lift the pay freeze on their salaries. The VA should have the best and the brightest medical staff out there. That means hiring the best and firing those who do not pass muster.

The shortage of health care providers is not a new issue—particularly in rural areas of the country. We have struggled with this in Illinois. The Danville and Marion VA medical centers—both in small towns far from an urban center—struggle to fill health care positions. In 2009 I offered an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 funding bill that set aside \$3 million for incentive pay to help with recruitment and retention for medical personnel to serve in rural VA facilities. Raising salaries would help facilities such as these attract and keep topflight doctors and nurses.

The Veterans Health Administration is an important training ground for many medical students. At Hines VA medical center in Chicago, medical students from Loyola get much of their training in a clinical setting. The veterans benefit from the addition of these young doctors. And hopefully that experience leads to more doctors looking to the VA as a career choice. But no matter how appealing the VA is, medical school debt is a factor. The VA offers a loan repayment program that can help offset those worries, but offering pay that is more comparable to the private sector would make working for the VA health care system even more attractive to new graduates and would help retain current staff.

The VA cares for America's heroes, the men and women who have worked to keep our country safe and defend American ideals abroad. As recent investigations have brought to light, VA must improve recruitment and retention of medical personnel to keep pace with growing demand. I am happy Secretary McDonald is lifting the salary freeze on medical personnel and plans to increase compensation for the health care providers who work with our veterans. They deserve the best.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in honor of Hunger Action Month, I want to say a few words about the real and lingering problem of hunger and food insecurity. Hunger has no boundaries. In a Nation that prides itself as the land of plenty, more than 47 million people—

including more than 1 in 5 children—do not know how they will put food on their table.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is one of our most important antihunger programs. More than 80 percent of SNAP households have incomes below the poverty line, which is less than \$500 a week for a family of four. Seventy percent of SNAP participants are in families with children, and more than 25 percent are in households with seniors or people with disabilities. Basic sustenance ought to be a guarantee in a civilized society, not a gamble. If children or adults are hungry in America, that is a problem for all of us, and it is a problem we can do something about.

I have traveled across my State and met families and parents that rely on food assistance and heard their stories. They are our neighbors, they are hard-working people who lost their job or got sick. They are seniors living on a limited income.

They are people like Maureen, who works cleaning houses. Her husband fell ill and had to stop working due to a disability. Maureen struggles to put food on the table for her two daughters in high school. Her husband's doctor says he needs to eat more vegetables, but Maureen says they are just too expensive. The \$126 a month in SNAP benefits Maureen receives help, but she still struggles and relies on a food pantry to feed her family. Unfortunately, Maureen is just one of the more than 1.8 million Illinoisans who do not know where their next meal will come from.

The millions of Americans, like Maureen, who rely on safety net antihunger programs, may not have the loudest voice in the debate or big public relations firms, but we must protect these programs and work to improve the lives of vulnerable families, children, and seniors at their time of need.

Hunger in America is not something we can ignore. No family should have to wonder where their next meal will come from. As a co-chair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues and those in the antihunger community to shine a light on this important issue and eliminate domestic hunger.

TRIBUTE TO JOSUE ROBLES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a great American veteran, businessman, and leader, MG Josue Robles, Retired, or, as he prefers to be called, Joe. Joe is stepping down at the end of this year as the CEO and president of USAA, a great American institution based in San Antonio. His retirement marks a milestone in an inspirational and remarkable American story and the conclusion of an impressive career. He will be sorely missed not only by the employees at USAA but by the greater San Antonio community and beyond.

The eldest of nine children, Joe was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, in 1946. His father was working as a waiter when he was approached by a group of Americans who were recruiting for steel mills in the United States. His dad went to work for U.S. Steel in Lorain, OH. Eighteen months later, when Joe was 3, his dad had saved enough money to send for the family. Their house in Ohio was six blocks from the steel mill, where his father worked for the next 35 years, in addition to part-time work as a carpenter and plumber to supplement his income.

Starting at age 11 and throughout high school, Joe worked a variety of jobs at a local grocery store and in the neighborhood doing yard work. He worked in the steel mill one summer and learned very quickly what a hot, dirty, dangerous place it was. One summer there was enough, and it motivated Joe to go to school and get a good education so he would never have to shovel slag again.

While in high school, Joe was awarded a medical school scholarship sponsored by the local medical society. They would pay for his education if he agreed to come back and practice medicine in his hometown. But first he had to earn an undergraduate degree. Joe graduated from high school in 1964 and worked that summer painting a house. The job paid enough to cover his first year of tuition at Lorain County Community College. Joe married that year and went to work full time at a nuclear plant, where he monitored radiation levels. Within 2 years, his long hours forced him to drop a few classes and switch his student status to part time. Then, in 1966, his country came calling, and Joe was drafted into the U.S. Army.

By any measure, Joe's military career was stellar. His awards and mission-critical positions and assignments are too numerous to fully recount, but let me share a few highlights. Joe completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. While there, he earned a recommendation for the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, OK. Once commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was sent to Korea in 1967 and 1968, followed by assignment as an executive officer at Fort Knox, KY, and then 12 months as a battery commander in Vietnam.

In the latter part of his career, Joe served as the chief of the Program and Budget Office at the U.S. Army Headquarters, the division artillery commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Mechanized, at Fort Riley, KS; and the Army planner and director for operations and support at Department of the Army Headquarters. As assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX, he prepared and deployed the division for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then served as the director of the Army budget and as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, Mechanized, out of Fort Riley, KS—the legendary “Big Red One.”

As is the case in any military career, Joe had to move his family many times. He has a son who is autistic, and each move meant adjustments to new schools, teachers, and therapists. In 1994, Joe decided it was time to retire from the Army so that his family would have a more stable life. After a stint as a USAA board member from 1990 to 1994, Joe joined USAA full time in 1994. He assumed the position of president and CEO in 2007 after serving as the CFO for a number of years.

Under his leadership as CEO, not only has USAA seen exponential growth, it was ranked No. 1 for customer service, satisfaction, or advocacy by Bloomberg Businessweek, MSN Money, the American Association of Individual Investors, Forrester Research, and J.D. Power. Committed to advocating for military families, Joe has guided USAA to become a national leader in hiring veterans and military spouses and offering them careers in the private sector. Joe was invited to the White House and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to be recognized for USAA's efforts in this area and demonstrating its commitment by ensuring that veterans and military spouses comprised 30 percent of USAA's new hires in 2013.

Beyond those astounding achievements, Joe has also been a dedicated and active member of his community throughout his career. In 2011, Joe was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Horatio Alger Award recipients are dedicated community leaders who demonstrate individual initiative, a commitment to excellence, and remarkable achievements through honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance over adversity.

Joe has left some big shoes for future leaders of the military, USAA, and the San Antonio community. His is the quintessential American story—one of perseverance, work ethic, and fortitude. But if you ask most people who know Joe well, they will tell you what stands out most about him is that he is simply a great human being. He views himself as not just a leader but part of a greater community—a community of people to which he is dedicated and about which he cares deeply. That is really what sets Joe apart from many other hard-charging leaders, and it is why he will be profoundly missed. I offer my congratulations to Joe Robles on a commendable career, a lifetime of achievements and his ability to maintain humility and compassion through it all.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POW/ MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor all of those brave American men and women who have suffered as prisoners of war, are missing in action, or remain unaccounted for with respect to their service to our Nation. Since 1998, we take the third Friday of every Sep-

tember—this year, the 19th—as a day to acknowledge and remember with these extraordinary men and women. Our servicemembers provide the blanket of security that allows us to sleep safely at night. We cannot thank them enough. But what we can do is pledge to all of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines never to forget them and their sacrifice.

During the course of the Vietnam war, over 2,500 military personnel were declared either a prisoner of war or missing in action. In 1971, Mary Hoff, the wife of Lt. Cmdr Michael Hoff, a missing-in-action military officer, saw the need for a flag to honor all of those classified as missing in action, MIA, or prisoner of war, POW. Newt Heisley, a World War II pilot, designed the flag. It is a haunting black flag containing a white silhouette of a servicemember. Behind this servicemember is a single barbed wire and a watchtower in the background, and underneath this image are the words “You are not forgotten.” Just as those words are written on the flag, so they are in my heart. As moving and poignant as this flag is, it was still not enough. On 1979, Congress and the President declared the first POW/MIA Recognition Day. On this day, all Americans shall remember those who gallantly sacrificed their freedom so we can remain free. Just 3 years later, this emblem became the only other flag to fly next to Old Glory over the White House. On 1989, it was installed in the Capitol rotunda as a representation of this Nation's vow to take account for all those who remain missing. As I walk past the rotunda and I see that flag, I always take a moment to remember those who have been declared POW or MIA in my thoughts and prayers. And to those who are still missing, I voice our commitment of never-ending support in finding you and bringing you home. No matter what it takes, we will never stop looking.

This day calls for remembrance of those in the past who have endured these awful fates, but it also reminds us to continue our efforts to bring every American home. From World War II to the 1991 gulf war, more than 83,000 Americans have been pronounced missing. That is a hard number to hear. I commend the actions of the Department of Defense, DOD, and of the personnel—military and civilian—who have wholeheartedly devoted themselves to the cause of finding and returning our courageous servicemembers. I honor and thank all of the Marylanders who have dedicated themselves to this cause. That quest is what our servicemembers and their families deserve, servicemembers such as John Call III of Potomac, MD, who served in Vietnam under the Air Force; POW survivor, Dr. Louis Haberer Tankin of Baltimore, MD, who served in World War II under the Army Medical Corps; Paul Carty of Frederick, MD, declared MIA serving in the Korean war under the Army; and Adnan al-Hilawi, DOD

contractor, who went missing on March 3, 2007, while working in Baghdad, Iraq, and still remains missing today.

I have had the honor to work beside Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a survivor of a POW camp—the infamous “Hanoi Hilton”—in North Vietnam for over 5 years. His experience and courage and triumph and service continue to inspire me. I thank my colleague for his service and sacrifice on our Nation's behalf.

It pains me to think about the fate of these men and women, but no matter the pain, we all must stay true to our pledge never to forget them. And we shall never forget the hardships endured by their family and friends who cannot receive the closure of their beloved servicemember's fate. The U.S. Government owes a great deal of compassion, appreciation, and gratitude to these families and friends.

Joseph Campbell once said, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” Every single soldier, airman, marine, and sailor is a hero in my eyes. I pledge to never forget those heroes who have been held prisoner of war or have been declared MIA, and I pledge to all of our service men and women that if you do go missing or are held captive, we will do everything in our power to bring you home and keep you in our memories. Today, this Nation reminds our servicemembers, our citizens, and the world that America “leaves no man behind.”

CELEBRATING THE AIR FORCE'S 67TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate another year of outstanding service from the U.S. Air Force. Through signing the National Security Act of 1947, President Harry Truman awarded our Air Force the respect and recognition it so rightly deserved, highlighting its strategic importance in the U.S. defense system. Sixty-seven years later, the Air Force continues to uphold the freedom and safety of our great Nation, protecting the bastion of democracy that is the United States of America. Today, we express our unwavering admiration and support for an Air Force that fulfills its duties with integrity and excellence. Accomplishing the mission “to fly, fight and win,” the Air Force is a source of national pride, and I have no doubt it will continue in this tradition.

In 1907, the world's first airplane flight soared over the sands of Kitty Hawk, NC, as a soaring, swooping symbol of innovation and technological prowess. The success of this first mission would not have been possible without the pioneering minds of the Wright Brothers, and the same stands today. I commend the skilled airmen of our Air Force: they are the warriors behind our aviation triumphs and their sacrifices and achievements are just as inspiring as those of their 20th-century predecessors. Our airmen are masters of innovation, ensuring the Air Force can

fly, fight, and win with efficiency, speed, and through world-class technology. They have come a long way since 1907 and will no doubt continue along this prominent trajectory.

At present, the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force dwarf comparable forces across the globe. Ours is the largest and most technologically advanced force in the world. Our airmen continuously strive to fulfill the five core missions of the Air Force: No. 1, air and space superiority; No. 2, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; No. 3, rapid global mobility; No. 4, global strike; and No. 5, command and control—all the while remaining committed to these central duties, the Air Force has recognized that strategic agility is the future. With the new Air Force 30-year strategy, triumphed by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III, our outstanding airmen are able to adapt and prepare for a world with ever-evolving global threats. Faced with new challenges, such as the danger posed by ISIL, the Air Force ensures we are one step ahead, placing our freedom and safety out of harm's reach. For the past 67 years our Air Force has proven to be responsive and brave in the face of change. It is a force we can all be proud of and, above all, a force we can trust.

The U.S. Air Force remains one of our most crucial tools for tackling global conflict. Its wide-ranging scope ensures it provides global vigilance, global reach, and global power while helping to manage crises around the world to safeguard our freedom. Using technology in air, space and cyber space, the Air Force has become integral to all fronts of U.S. defense. The Air Force is deployed in war zones, natural disaster relief, and intelligence gathering, demonstrating there are no bounds to its significance. By confronting conflicts around the globe, the Air Force protects U.S. citizens and plays a vital role in spreading peace and freedom to the worldwide population.

The Maryland Air National Guard is a wonderful example of dedicated citizen airmen who serve the Nation, the State of Maryland, and their local communities. An integral part of the Maryland community, our Air National Guard works to ensure the safety of the citizens of Maryland, coordinating responses to any State crises. Yet these same airmen have been called upon to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their experience and talents are an invaluable asset to the Department of Defense. Most recently, the 104th Fighter Squadron of the Maryland Air National Guard deployed four A-10C fighters and 100 personnel to participate in Exercise Saber Strike, supporting strategic training and foreign partnerships in Estonia. This is just one illustration of the good work of the Maryland Air National Guard. Our 175th wing is continually deployed worldwide to assist with training, hu-

manitarian relief, international cyber defense, and combat operations, all of which demonstrate the wide-ranging significance of our Maryland Air National Guard.

When remembering 67 years of stalwart service, we must never forget that we owe these years of triumph to the men and women behind the machines, the airmen. I thank them personally for their dedication and bravery to the United States of America. I am fortunate to have one—Maj. David James Wilson—currently serving on my staff as a defense legislative fellow. We ask a lot of these courageous men and women, and they continue to exceed our expectations with integrity and excellence. They are dedicated to service before self. They sacrifice their personal safety to ensure the U.S. flag continues to stand tall and fly free. They are the warriors who have answered our Nation's call. They are team members who leave no airman behind. They will not falter nor will they fail. For this, we owe them our enduring gratitude, support, and admiration.

Today, on the 67th birthday of our Air Force, we congratulate the men and women who have taken to the skies in defense of our freedom. Their valor and sacrifice humbles me. Let us remember this feeling of awe and pride not just today but every day as we applaud the accomplishments of our Nation's airmen, past and present, and wish the U.S. Air Force a happy 67th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on more than once occasion, I have talked about the hardworking men and women who toil mostly in anonymity here in the Senate. We have people who work on our staffs and on the committees. We have floor and cloakroom staff. We have parliamentarians and legislative counsel and enrolling clerks. We have carpenters and plumbers and electricians. To me, all of these people are part of the Senate family. And I am always grateful for the dedication, skill, and pride each brings to his or her job. Many of these individuals live in Maryland and I am proud to have them as constituents. While we Senators may have our partisan differences, the Senate functions well at an institutional level because of the professionalism and devotion to public service of its staff people who typically log long hours; endure government shutdowns, security threats, and other perturbations; and work in facilities we try to make as accessible as possible to the American people and anyone else who wishes to visit.

Today, I thank one such individual, Jerry Linnell, for 32 years of exemplary service to the Senate and the American people. Jerry is retiring at the end of the month. Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates in 1982 and became the Chief Reporter of Debates in 1999. For those

people who may be unfamiliar with the Reporters' office, it is charged with producing a verbatim account of everything that happens here on the floor of the Senate. Even with modern technology employed, that is a daunting task requiring a team of eight skilled reporters who take turns transcribing every word that we Senators utter on the floor. They have to be able to decipher our accents and occasional creative use of the English language, and they have to withstand filibusters. It is a mentally and physically challenging job. The Reporters the Senate employs are highly experienced professionals who take pride in their work. The Office has 15 people overall and a designee from the Government Printing Office, GPO; collectively, they are responsible for producing the Senate's portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is one of the crucial documents of our government.

Jerry is a Minnesota native, born in Duluth and raised in Grand Marais. He played on the high school football team and was captain of the basketball team. He attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis and graduated from its court reporting program. Jerry's first court reporting job was with Ward & Paul in Washington, DC, before moving to New Carrollton, MD and joining the Baltimore court reporting firm of Salomon Brothers. After several years in Baltimore and at one point passing in one test session 8 of the 9 highest testing requirements set by the National Court Reporters Association, Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates.

Jerry and his wife Jane first met on a dance floor; they were members of the DC Swing dance team and danced competitively. They enjoy traveling back to Grand Marais, where Jerry claims to have shoveled more snow than anyone else in the Linnell family, for various music events where he can play his accordion with local musicians and family members. He's also a country music fan.

Jerry is the proud father of Laurie, Jerry Jr., Heather and Katie, and the very proud grandfather of Colleen, Rachel, Leanne, Monica, and Jerry III. He currently serves as the President of the Linnell Family Association, a group composed of the thousands of descendants of Robert Linnell, who first came to the United States in the early 1600s to Scituate, Massachusetts. Jerry has spent many an hour refurbishing his Capitol Hill home, and plans on retiring between that home and a newly purchased and renovated home in North Carolina where he can play golf all year round.

Even though Jerry is a former Maryland resident, he is a diehard Washington Nationals fan. He and his wife Jane love to attend games together. In light of his more than three decades of public service, I won't hold that against him. But with the real prospect

this fall of a Beltway World Series between the Nats and the Baltimore Orioles, he should prepare himself to be disappointed!

Mr. President, in all seriousness, we are fortunate to have men and women of Jerry's caliber devote their time and talent to the U.S. Senate. Jerry is an outstanding public servant. While we will miss him—and his trademark suspenders—he certainly has earned a well-deserved retirement and on behalf of the Senate, I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

REMEMBERING JERRY L. HEDRICK

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry L. Hedrick, a lifelong North Carolinian, distinguished public servant, a United States Army veteran, and a leader of distinction at many levels in the American Legion, who died on August 25, 2014, concluding a life of superb and selfless service to the veterans of North Carolina and America. Jerry passed away on the eve of the American Legion's National Convention in Charlotte, NC, an event he had been actively planning for almost until the moment his life ended. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Jerry put his heart and soul into the Legion's mission throughout his life.

Jerry was born in Lexington, NC a year after the end of World War II and spent his younger, formative years in Davidson County, where he was graduated from Lexington Senior High in 1965, just as the war in Vietnam was escalating. Jerry joined the United States Army in 1966 and was trained as an armor crewman. He was subsequently assigned to Alpha Troop, First Squadron, of the Fourteenth Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fulda, Germany. This was in the early years of the Cold War that pitted North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, commanded by the United States, at outposts and in forward bases along the border that divided a free and democratic West Germany from a repressive communist regime in Soviet supported East Germany. The open lowlands around Jerry's base were known then and for the next 25 years as the Fulda Gap, where NATO expected a Soviet invasion of Western Europe would come through. At that time America's attention was turning toward Southeast Asia and the hot war there, but Jerry and his fellow soldiers had a vital mission, one that would continue until the demise of the Soviet Union.

Jerry received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1968 and returned home to North Carolina. Soon after, he joined American Legion Post 8 in Lexington and found work as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, where he worked faithfully from 1969 until 2001. In the early post-Army years, Jerry somehow found the time amidst all his activities to study and

obtain a business degree from Rowan Technical Community College. Years later, when Jerry was asked what spurred his decision to join the Legion, he simply stated, "I was asked by fellow workers and I wanted to help veterans."

Throughout his over four decades of service to the Legion and to North Carolina's veterans, Jerry Hedrick held almost every leadership position from Post Financial Officer, to Post Adjutant, to Post Commander, and went on to serve as both a Department and District Vice Commander and Commander, as well as rising to National level committees that addressed Americanism, Military Affairs, and International Affairs. Jerry was also the North Carolina Department's representative to the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and would say in later years that some of his fondest memories were from his time on the National Executive Committee, which is responsible for drafting the annual budget and signing off on the American Legion's spending.

While he devoted much of his life's work to the Legion and to veterans' issues, Jerry Hedrick was also devoted to his wife Marie and to his family, and a prominent figure in his community, through volunteerism for the Moose, Masonic, and Elks Lodges.

When I reflect on the sum total of Jerry's life, I see a man who knew that the calling of service and the value of fellowship were essential elements of the American experience and what truly bind us together. As an advocate for veterans, his legacy is typified in the old saying that the measure of a man is not what he does but what he gives. Jerry lived those words until his last day with us.

I offer his wife Marie and his entire family my deepest condolences. They, all of North Carolina, and this Nation, have lost a lifelong friend, a true gentleman, a stalwart leader for veterans, and a role model for those committed to community and national service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STORY LANDIS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a truly exceptional public servant, Dr. Story Landis, who is retiring in a few weeks from the directorship of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health. I have been fortunate to get to know Dr. Landis during her 11 years as Institute Director. She has testified several times before the committees I chair, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, always with the poise of a leader at a prestigious national institution, the rigor of a renowned scientist, and the insight of a truly extraordinary pioneer working on the frontiers of our knowledge of the human brain.

Certainly, Dr. Landis has an exemplary pedigree. A graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University, Dr. Landis came to NIH in 1995 as NINDS Scientific Director, following a distinguished career as a neuroscience researcher and chair of the Neuroscience Department at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. As scientific director, she had the bold vision to stimulate collaborations in brain research across labs from different institutes on the NIH campus and led the planning for a unique national neuroscience research center at NIH. From the time Dr. Landis became NINDS Director in 2003, she worked with me, with the late Senator Spector, and with other NIH Institute Directors to make this center a reality. This spring I was fortunate to be at the NIH campus to help officially dedicate the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center.

I will remember Dr. Landis best for her courage, her ability to bridge gaps, and her passion.

First, her courage. Not many people remember this, but in 2007, Dr. Landis was the first NIH Director to speak publicly in opposition to President Bush's ban on Federal funding of stem cell research. That may not sound like much to us now, but at the time it was a remarkable act of professional integrity and personal courage. The American public was very divided, the scientific community was not unified, and most importantly, she worked for the administration whose policies she was publicly criticizing. She risked her job and her reputation to alert this Senate to the reality that research was being stifled—research with enormous potential to reduce human suffering. Just last week, I read a press report about stem cells being used to decode schizophrenic brains. This Nation is indebted to Dr. Landis for having the courage to speak a hard truth at a critical juncture in our Nation's scientific policy debate.

Second, let me talk about Dr. Landis's ability to bridge gaps. In truth, she has bridged so many divides throughout her career: She reached across institutes in 2005 to establish and develop one of the most effective trans-NIH initiatives in producing the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research and more recently launching the NIH BRAIN Initiative, which will bring together engineers, aging experts, and neuroscientists to transform our understanding of the human brain. She reached across scientific gaps in chairing the NIH Stem Cell Task Force and helping to coordinate and lead pain research efforts across NIH, and she bridged generation gaps in her enthusiastic mentorship, her work on career development, and her support for early-stage investigators.

But the gap I remember best is the divide between scientists and policymakers. I might be telling tales out of school here, but it was Story Landis and Jim Battey who sat with me for

nearly an hour in Dirksen 116 and patiently walked me through the science and the potential for stem cell research. Concepts that are familiar to many of us now—ideas such as pluripotency and somatic cell transfer—were entirely new. Scientists and the public would all have to learn how to engage with one another about the legal, technical, and ethical issues raised by stem cell research, and Dr. Landis was there to bridge that divide with me.

Finally, let me speak about her passion. Dr. Landis and I have worked together for many years on many topics, but none is closer to her heart than spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA. When she and I began collaborating to address SMA, there was very little to offer families who had a child afflicted by this debilitating disease. Between 2003 and 2012, the NINDS piloted the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Project to expedite therapeutics development. If you listen to Dr. Collins talk about the Advanced Medicine Partnership today, you hear echoes of Dr. Landis's work on SMA. The project was designed to accelerate the research process by creating a virtual pharmaceutical company to identify drugs that could be used as potential leads for clinical testing. This was groundbreaking work well before "translational research" was commonly discussed. And it worked not just for the compounds it discovered but also by getting companies interested in creating more and better treatments. As a consequence, today when we talk about the SMA treatments in development, we talk about treatments in the plural. This would not be happening if Story Landis had not focused her passion on SMA.

Dr. Landis's career has stimulated tremendous progress in the field of neuroscience and inspired legions of young scientists to follow in her path. She has been a true public servant. Indeed, I am always amazed at America's good fortune in attracting public servants of the world-class caliber of Dr. Landis. It has been my privilege to work with her and to learn from her over the years. Dr. Landis has many other admirers in the U.S. Senate. We honor Dr. Story Landis today for her invaluable leadership of NINDS and for her great service to the people of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO COMBINED JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE 435

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, CJIATF, 435. On October 1, 2014, CJIATF 435 will conclude a 5-year mission in Afghanistan to conduct U.S. law of armed conflict detainee operations while successfully training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Army and Afghan justice sector to develop and improve the investigation, prosecution, and detention of insurgent and terror-related threats.

CJIATF 435's team included Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and coalition members. The team developed a strong collaborative relationship with highly capable partners in the Afghan National Army Military Police Guard Command, the National Directorate of Security, the Attorney General's Office, and the Supreme Court. They also partnered with U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Justice.

On September 18, 2009, CJIATF 435 was established originally as Joint Task Force 435, JTF 435, to assume command, control, oversight and responsibility for all U.S. detainee operations in Afghanistan and coordinate with other partners to promote the rule of law and use of biometrics in Afghanistan. Through its subordinate command, the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan, CJIATF 435 partnered with the Office of the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement. With the addition of combined and interagency partners, JTF 435 officially became CJIATF 435 on September 1, 2010.

CJIATF 435 justice advisors from the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan and the Joint Legal Center, trained, advised, and assisted Afghan prosecutors, judges, and investigators, which enabled the justice system to try over 7,000 cases with a 75 percent conviction rate, resulting in more than 3,000 insurgents held accountable for their crimes. The Joint Legal Center also responded to over 12,000 requests for information from Afghan courts. The National Directorate of Security Agents provided information for investigations to assist in convictions.

CJIATF 435 instituted the first of its kind Afghan Training Team program that provided opportunities for expert Afghan criminal investigators, forensic experts, and prosecutors to share their professional expertise with provincial investigators and prosecutors. The program trained more than 400 students in a multitude of Evidence Based Operations procedures.

The CJIATF 435 Intelligence Directorate, the Theater Intelligence Group, conducted more than 30,000 interviews and produced thousands of reports in support of Afghan investigation, prosecution, and detention operations. Outstanding intelligence collection consisting of over 30,000 interrogations generating more than 5,500 intelligence information reports, resulting in over 2,000 source directed requirements, made legal victories possible and contributed valuable information to the war fighting effort. The Theater Intelligence Group expertly partnered with Afghan law enforcement investigators to train and assist them in conducting interviews and investigations of complex terror organizations.

CJIATF 435 managed the theater biometrics database which enrolled thousands of individuals associated with the insurgency into the database and

prevented them from entering coalition bases. The biometrics enabled watchlist was critical to force protection and led to the capture, targeting, and tactical questioning of hundreds of possible threats. These biometric enrollments also linked many insurgents to a host of crimes against the coalition and the Afghan people.

During the transition of detention operations to Afghan custody and control, CJIATF 435 ensured the Afghan Military Police Guard Command provided secure and humane care, custody, and control of over 3,500 detainees. CJIATF 435 provided hands-on training, mentorship, and oversight to facilitate the complete transfer of detainee operations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, GIROA. Their tireless efforts set the conditions of GIROA's largest detention facility to conduct independent operations in full compliance with international standards of humane care and detainee treatment.

As CJIATF 435 approached the end of mission, it established a rule of law development team to continue mentoring the Afghan prosecutors, judges, investigators and military police in the investigation, prosecution, and detention of national security threats. Through the tireless efforts of the men and women of CJIATF 435, the Afghans are well poised to effectively operate the National Security Justice Center at Parwan which will protect the Afghan people and coalition forces while strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.

Commending the combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 on a job well-done for supporting the Government of Afghanistan as it built self-sustaining detention capacity and rule of law institutions compliant with Afghan and international law, I ask that the Senate join me in acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of CJIATF 435 for promoting the values of democracy.

INDIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, next week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United States for the first time since his historic election victory. The U.S. and India are natural partners with shared values and common interests, yet we are far from realizing the full potential of our relationship to the mutual benefit of both of our countries. On behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and thousands of Indian-American constituents across New Jersey, I welcome the Prime Minister to the United States and am confident that his visit will re-invigorate and refocus our partnership so that concrete progress can be made in a host of sectors.

India's new government has won a historic mandate to deliver change and reform, and we should be ready to support India's efforts to meet challenges—through concrete measures to

bolster trade and investment, strengthen defense cooperation, and deepen our security partnership.

The U.S. and India are engaged in a comprehensive set of diplomatic dialogue and working groups—currently there are dozens such groups covering a wide range of issues in the areas of economics, security, climate change, and education. This is a relationship that does not suffer from a lack of dialogue. It has, however, unfortunately suffered from a lack of results, especially since the civilian nuclear framework was agreed to in 2005. With a strong push from the Prime Minister, President Obama and the U.S. Congress, the time is right for these dialogues to translate into action.

There is broad support in the U.S. for a more robust economic and trade relationship with India. Investment should be at the top of this agenda. I welcome India's move to raise foreign investment ceilings in several sectors of the Indian economy, including defense, railways, e-commerce and insurance. These are important steps that have helped to ease some of the concerns American companies have had about barriers to entering the Indian market. However more must be done and I hope that the U.S. and India will work together to address these remaining barriers.

Vice President BIDEN laid out an ambitious trade target last summer in India, calling for a five-fold increase from \$100 billion to \$500 billion a year in annual bilateral trade. Prime Minister Modi and President Obama should reconvene the Trade Policy Forum this year, which will provide a platform to identify steps to improve our economic and trade relationship. The Prime Minister's visit will also present an opportunity to reengage on World Trade Organization negotiations, where India's concerns are the last remaining barrier to the important Trade Facilitation Agreement. I also hope we can smooth the way forward for continued discussions to complete a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

U.S. companies seek to invest in India, but need transparent governance, a fair regulatory environment, and strong legal mechanisms to protect those investments. If the Indian government can deliver on its plans for greater openness for capital flows and stronger intellectual property rights, I am confident our companies are ready to invest. We want to work together with India to help foster the best conditions for this kind of economic growth and partnership.

I welcome recent reports that India plans to develop a new comprehensive intellectual property rights, IPR, policy. We need to see real reforms on this key issue, which significantly impacts the ability of U.S. companies to do business in an important market. In particular, the life sciences industry faces continuing challenges on IPR protections. I appreciate that this is a complex issue. Policymakers in both

the United States and India want to ensure access to medications for those who need them, especially for low-income and other vulnerable populations. International life sciences companies in my State and from other nations are concerned that India's lack of protection of IPR will threaten innovation and affect access for those very people. I look forward to the renewed dialogue with the Indian government on this issue.

India has a central role in contributing to prosperity in South Asia, a central foreign policy interest of the U.S. As the U.S. seeks to bolster Afghanistan's economic links in the region, within the framework of the New Silk Road initiative, we look to India to play a critical role in promoting trade with Afghanistan and the other countries of Central Asia. Regional economic connectivity should also extend to India's trade relationship with Pakistan. I urge both India and Pakistan to continue to work toward strengthening their bilateral relationship. Improved trade relations between India and Pakistan have the potential to unlock opportunities for over 1.5 billion people. The U.S. stands ready and willing to support efforts that enhance the cross-border trade relationship.

India is a strong partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region, and we have a shared national interest to confront terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and maintain regional stability. In Afghanistan, India has been a key provider of development assistance and supporter of the Afghan National Security Forces. As the international community draws down forces in Afghanistan, the U.S. and India should be prepared to increase counterterrorism and intelligence cooperation and coordination, and both sides should commit to a robust set of military exercises. Last year India significantly increased its purchases of American arms and now conducts more exercises and personnel exchanges with the U.S. than any other country—I welcome and encourage expanding this important collaboration.

Defense cooperation remains the most promising area of U.S.-India cooperation, and I am pleased that Secretary Hagel's recent visit to India further deepened our defense ties. We should expand initiatives to strengthen our defense cooperation, including military exercises, as well as co-production and co-development of defense products. The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative should continue to advance efforts to reform India's defense procurement and management systems, and encourage both sides to explore the possibility of a revamped and expanded formal framework for a bilateral defense agreement.

I believe we should be expanding educational ties in all sectors—the best and the brightest from both sides should be exchanging ideas and building on the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that exists in both coun-

tries. I encourage the U.S.-India Education Dialogue to continue to explore areas of collaboration, including student and faculty exchange, research cooperation, and implementation of technology-enabled education strategies, such as e-learning, and cooperation between community colleges.

Rutgers University has formed strong relationships with Indian educational and research institutions, and has increased the profile of India with businesses, communities, and nonprofit organizations in New Jersey. Rutgers was one of five recipients of the 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, which unifies many of the university's efforts with Indian institutions through faculty exchanges, and research and innovation collaboration in the priority areas of food security, climate change, sustainable health and public health. I strongly support these collaborations, and encourage the expansion of efforts to strengthen exchanges in technical and vocational education.

India has a long and rich history of religious, ethnic, and linguistic pluralism with a vibrant civil society. We should also continue to work together to ensure greater respect for human rights, and encourage a legal framework that protects the civil rights and liberties of the most vulnerable Indian populations, particularly women and children.

India is critical to international efforts to address climate change. There are huge opportunities for India to act on climate change while boosting development at the same time, and I urge the Indian government to continue to explore ways to make clean power more accessible and more affordable. We should also expand our partnership with India on energy, which would help them reduce dependence on unstable energy suppliers. Finally, we must continue to work toward cutting emissions from hydrofluorocarbons and coal—both of which contribute to climate change. I applaud Secretary Kerry and Minister Swaraj's efforts to establish a new joint working group on climate change, and am hopeful that we can continue to explore ways to expand R&D collaboration to bolster renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, to meet India's growing energy demands, while ensuring there are environmental protections.

Our agenda is extensive and the potential to accomplish our mutually beneficial goals is limitless. There is so much room for growth. With sustained attention and leadership, as well as active engagement by the Indian-American diaspora, I am confident in our ability to achieve results and work toward a more prosperous and secure future. I am proud to welcome Prime Minister Modi to the United States and I wish him a successful visit.

COMMEMORATING HANFORD B's SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator CANTWELL to commemorate the Hanford B Reactor in our home State of Washington as we approach the 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. An essential part of the Manhattan Project, on September 26, 1944, the B Reactor was successfully energized to convert uranium into plutonium, an event known as going critical. The entire facility was built in only 13 months, and only a handful of the 50,000 workers at the site knew what was being assembled. The speed and precision of the construction of the facility remain an engineering marvel today. It was not until later that the majority of these workers learned they had played a key role in the history of nuclear materials production in the United States and helped the U.S. win World War II and the Cold War.

The B Reactor went on to operate for more than 20 years until 1968, making its mark on the 20th century. After ceasing operations, the B Reactor was to be encased in concrete like all the other reactors as part of the Hanford Reservation cleanup efforts. Given the B Reactor's historic role, I worked for many years with Senator CANTWELL and the entire Washington delegation to ensure this piece of our nation's history is preserved for generations to come. After years of hard work, I was pleased when the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the B Reactor as a national historic landmark in 2008, and the B Reactor now receives more than 10,000 visitors a year from around the Nation and the world to see and experience this important part of world history. Today, the B Reactor remains a symbol for the Hanford Reservation, the entire Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation as a whole.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I join my colleague Senator MURRAY in commemorating this important day in American history. Seventy years ago, when the B Reactor went critical, it forever changed history and thrust society into the Atomic Age. On September 26, 1944 the Manhattan Project overcame a major obstacle when the B Reactor—the first full-scale nuclear reactor—proved that it was possible to develop plutonium in large quantities, and the world was forever transformed. Our constituents in Washington State are reminded of that change daily, as the workers at the Hanford Reservation continue their efforts to clean up the legacy of the B Reactor and the eight other reactors built and operated at Hanford. The history of this fateful day and the entire Manhattan Project must be remembered so that our Nation has the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the important lessons this facility has to offer.

Our collective work to designate the B Reactor as a national historic land-

mark is a great start, but the Manhattan Project story cannot be told at the B Reactor alone. This is why I am working with Senator MURRAY and our colleagues in Tennessee and New Mexico to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act would commemorate the historic achievements made by the workers at the Hanford Reservation and at other Manhattan Project sites across the country. The men and women who worked on the B Reactor played an unforgettable role in our Nation's history, and it is important that we remember their lasting impact.

Mrs. MURRAY. I commend Senator CANTWELL for her work on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act and will continue to push this legislation forward with our colleagues in Congress. The 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor going critical is a fitting tribute and reminder that this landmark moment in history should be preserved for future generations through the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES MEZA, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Dr. James Meza, Jr., who has devoted much of his life to ensuring that all of Louisiana's students receive an excellent education. He currently serves as Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System and while he will soon retire from this role, he will be leaving behind an indelible mark of impressive leadership and results. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of Louisiana, I applaud Dr. Meza as a champion of high quality education and for his devotion to Louisiana's public education system.

Dr. Meza's experience in education spans more than 40 years and crosses teaching and leadership positions both at the K-12 and higher education levels. As a champion of education reform, Dr. Meza developed many of the pioneering ideas in Louisiana that led to revolutionary reform movements across the Nation. In the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav, Dr. Meza was instrumental in one of the most transformational endeavors of modern public education helping to establish the Recovery School District in New Orleans, LA, which is now 100 percent public charter schools and has experienced extraordinary progress in closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Meza served most recently as the Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Louisiana's largest and most diverse school district, serving 46,000 students. Since becoming the head of Jefferson Parish Public School System in 2011, Dr. Meza has led a reform agenda that has transformed the school system from one in a downward spiral for achievement to

one of Louisiana's most improved school systems. In 2 years, Jefferson Parish Public School System has improved its State performance rating from a letter grade "D" to "B." In that same period, the number of "A" and "B" schools has increased dramatically, from 13 to 32. Jefferson Parish is home to 4 schools that are ranked in the top 10 in Louisiana.

Prior to becoming Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Dr. Meza served as Professor and Dean at the University of New Orleans, UNO, for more than 21 years where he published more than 40 journal articles to study education reform, specifically focused on serving children of low-income families in Louisiana and nationwide. Dr. Meza is recognized nationally for redefining the role of colleges of education and their work with low performing schools. As Dean, he launched the UNO Charter School Network of four charter schools, as well as Louisiana's first Type 5—turnaround—charter school. His efforts were recognized by New Orleans City Business, which presented him with the "Innovator of the Year" award. He received the honor and title of Professor and Dean Emeritus from the LSU system, recognizing his years of scholarship at UNO.

Dr. Meza has served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, BESE, and the Interim State Superintendent of Education for Louisiana. During this time, he was a pioneer in school accountability, launching Louisiana's educational quality and trust fund, 8G, and restructuring the Department of Education as Louisiana transformed the State Superintendent's position from an elected position to one appointed by BESE. Dr. Meza also has served as a faculty member at Nicholls State University, principal of Cabrini High School, and teacher at E.D. White and Isidore Newman High School.

Dr. Meza has received numerous awards and deserved recognitions for his transformational work in the education sphere. He is the recipient of The Weiss Award by the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, which honors members of the Greater New Orleans community for civic and humanitarian contributions. He has also been recognized as a "Super Hero" by the national organization Stand for Children for his work in improving quality educational opportunities for children of poverty.

Dr. Meza currently serves on the Board of Directors of Holy Cross School and was a member of the Louisiana Serve Commission and the Southern University System Board of Supervisors. He is also a founding board member of Ben Franklin High School and Edward Hynes charter schools. Dr. Meza served 32 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard and retired at the rank of Colonel.

I am proud that Louisiana's students and teachers have had the strong leadership and guidance of Dr. Meza over

the years. Dr. Meza's leadership as the Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System will be missed; however, I have full faith and trust that he will continue to lead in improving the educational prospects and outcomes for Louisiana's students in whatever role he pursues next. Once again, I am privileged and honored to formally recognize Dr. James Meza, Jr. for his commitment and efforts to strengthen public education in Louisiana.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.O. SMITH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate A.O. Smith Corporation, a "Made in Wisconsin" company on the occasion of their 140th anniversary.

A.O. Smith was founded in 1874 in Milwaukee, WI, and over the past century has grown rapidly from a small family business specializing in the fabrication of metal hardware specialties to a global water technology manufacturer producing residential and commercial water heaters, boilers, and water purification equipment. Today they employ more than 10,000 people across the United States and the world.

The company was instrumental in helping to usher in the automobile revolution, developing a new, lightweight steel car frame a development that caught the interest of major car companies including Peerless, Cadillac, Packard, Oldsmobile, and Ford. Ford's initial order of 10,000 frames led A.O. Smith to develop the world's first mass production process for assembling frames, later introducing the world's first automated frame production line. This first fully automated frame assembly plant came to be known as the "mechanical marvel" due to the line's ability to make a frame every eight seconds—10,000 frames a day.

Their engineers discovered an improved method for welding, allowing for the production of a wide range of steel products. This included the pressure vessel for oil refining and large diameter steel pipe, important components in the oil and natural gas industries.

One of the company's most important and enduring innovations was the process of fusing glass to steel. By perfecting this process, the company developed a range of new products, including glass-lined beer kegs, glass-lined brewery tanks, and glass-lined residential water heaters. Glass-lined water heaters rapidly became an industry standard that endures today and led to A.O. Smith's growth as a global company and as an important economic driver for Southeastern Wisconsin.

In recent years, A.O. Smith has emerged as a vital player in global water technologies, developing solutions to our water challenges. A co-founding member of The Water Council, A.O. Smith has helped ensure Mil-

waukee's place as a world water leader, while supporting economic development in Wisconsin. The Water Council helped bring about the creation of the Global Water Center, which houses water-related business accelerators and research facilities, including A.O. Smith's global water treatment lab, where engineers conduct controlled testing on water purification products sold around the world. Bringing together their work has helped transform Milwaukee into one of the world's most significant hubs for water research, education, and economic development.

I am proud to recognize A.O. Smith as a "Made in Wisconsin" leader, and I share my best wishes with the company and their employees for their continued success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JEFF GRAPPONE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to say a few kind words about my longtime communications director and friend, Jeff Grappone—a native of Concord, NH.

Jeff has served as my chief spokesman since I ran for the Senate in 2010. He's traveled with me from Nashua all the way up to Colebrook, and from Keene to Portsmouth. He was by my side at the Statehouse when I filed my paperwork to become a candidate, and he was there when I won the primary and general elections. Jeff was present for my ceremonial swearing-in that took place in the Old Senate Chamber, and he then immediately got to work establishing my Senate press office.

Jeff helped me hit the ground running as a first-time candidate and as a new Senator. He has provided me with outstanding communications counsel, and I've drawn on his considerable experience here on Capitol Hill as well as back home in New Hampshire. He's been an invaluable adviser as I've gone about my work in the Senate—helping me effectively communicate my legislative priorities in Washington and in the Granite State.

Jeff has worked tirelessly in my office. It wasn't unusual for him to work into the night until the last vote was called in the Senate, and then head up to New Hampshire for a press conference the next morning. He has brought energy and enthusiasm to my staff, and he shares my strong commitment to serving the people of the Granite State.

After nearly a decade in politics and on Capitol Hill—on the legislative staff of Congressman Charles F. Bass, as Press Secretary to Senator John E. Sununu, and as a spokesman for Senator JOHN MCCAIN's presidential campaign, Jeff is about to embark on a new chapter in his career outside of government. As he makes this transition, I will miss his intellect, his expertise, his good humor, and his inherent decency.

Jeff lives by our State's motto, "Live Free or Die," and he has New Hampshire in his blood. He has been a talented and diligent member of my staff, and he's a loyal friend. I wish Jeff the very best always.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB NASH

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of New Hampshire's most respected, accomplished, and beloved citizens—Bob Nash—as he enters into his retirement. I am proud to recognize his illustrious professional career, and his continued service to our country and many communities across the Granite State.

Bob attended the Georgia Military Academy before transferring to the University of Florida, where he graduated with a degree in journalism. After college, Bob joined the Army and bravely served our Nation as a helicopter platoon commander in Vietnam. Bob flew 325 missions and was awarded both the Bronze Star and United States Military Air Medal. He eventually earned the rank of Captain.

Following his dedicated service to our country, Bob began a 38-year career in association management, and obtained his Master's in Business Administration and Certified Executive Association certification. In 2001, he became president of the New Hampshire Association of Insurance Agents, NHAIA. Under his leadership, the association received several accolades, including the Bronze Excellence in Education Award, Gold Excellence in Education Awards, the Diamond Excellence in Education Award, and the InsurPAC Eagle Award. The association was also honored with the Innovations in Education, Non-Seminar Education Services, and L.P. McCord Education Award for Excellence. Most noteworthy, in 2011, the NHAIA was awarded the Maurice G. Herndon National Legislative Award—the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a State association.

Bob Nash is an extraordinary Granite Stater whose commitment to others extends beyond his military and professional career. For many years he has been actively involved with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, the Kawanis, and the United Way. I wish Bob and his wife Pat all the best as they enjoy retirement at home in Hillsboro. New Hampshire is fortunate to have such outstanding citizens such as Bob, and I am proud to call him my friend.●

CELEBRATING LANCASTER'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lancaster, NH, which is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding this year. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this special milestone.

Located along the Connecticut River in New Hampshire's North Country,

Lancaster is a gateway to the Great North Woods, Weeks State Park and the White Mountain National Forest.

As Coos County's county seat, Lancaster is home to over 3,500 residents. The town welcomes hundreds of visitors from across the region who come each year to enjoy its scenic beauty and vibrant recreational opportunities, including snowmobiling, hiking, and fishing. Shops line the town's bustling Main Street, and every year the annual Lancaster Fair, which is the premier agricultural fair in the region, attracts citizens from across the Granite State and beyond.

New Hampshire's covered bridges are a unique part of our State's beauty, history and charm, and the town of Lancaster is home to two of these classic bridges. The historic Mt. Orne and Mechanic Street bridges span the Connecticut and Israel rivers, respectively.

Throughout its history, Lancaster has also been home to several notable public servants. John Weeks represented New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate, where he sponsored legislation that established the White Mountain National Forest. He also served in President Calvin Coolidge's cabinet as the 48th Secretary of War. Jared W. Williams served in the U.S. House and Senate, and was New Hampshire's 21st governor. Chester Bradley Jordan was elected the 48th Governor of New Hampshire, Irving W. Drew served in the U.S. Senate, and Jacob Benton and Ossain Ray both served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lancaster's citizens have contributed much to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire. I am delighted to congratulate all Lancaster residents—past and present—as they celebrate this historic occasion.●

MENTORING

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I would like to express appreciation to those who volunteer their time to serve as mentors.

A recent New York Times column by Thomas L. Friedman titled, "It Takes a Mentor," discussed the importance of mentors to students and those starting careers. This article highlighted research conducted by the Gallup organization that underscored the significant role mentors can play in helping individuals achieve post-secondary education and career success.

The Gallup research focused on the benefits of mentorships for young adults, but those advantages can also be applied to the academic and athletic mentor programs available to children in grades K–12.

While policymakers and educational experts address concerns about whether American children will learn the skills needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy, we should not overlook the role that mentors play on an individual basis to inspire K–12 students to set higher goals and achieve more.

Volunteer mentors serve as positive role models who can help build self-esteem and confidence in youth, particularly in at-risk children. The best mentors endeavor to challenge students, enhance their self-confidence, and make them excited about learning.

I appreciate the efforts of organizations such as the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Tougaloo College and others throughout Mississippi that sponsor a variety of mentorship programs with missions to improve the education and wellness of children in my State. The individuals, college students and professionals who give of their time to be part of mentor programs also have my respect.

Mr. President, as a new school year gets underway in earnest across the Nation, I think it is worthwhile to consider and encourage the benefits and rewards that come with volunteering to serve as a mentor.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Mr. Friedman's column be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 9, 2014]

IT TAKES A MENTOR

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

With millions of students returning to school—both K–12 and college—this is a good time to review the intriguing results of some research that Gallup did over the past year, exploring the linkages between education and long-term success in the workplace. That is: What are the things that happen at a college or technical school that, more than anything else, produce "engaged" employees on a fulfilling career track? According to Brandon Busteed, the executive director of Gallup's education division, two things stand out. Successful students had one or more teachers who were mentors and took a real interest in their aspirations, and they had an internship related to what they were learning in school.

"We think it's a big deal" where we go to college, Busteed explained to me. "But we found no difference in terms of type of institution you went to—public, private, selective or not in long-term outcomes. How you got your college education mattered most."

Graduates who told Gallup that they had a professor or professors "who cared about them as a person—or had a mentor who encouraged their goals and dreams and/or had an internship where they applied what they were learning—were twice as likely to be engaged with their work and thriving in their overall well-being," Busteed said.

Alas, though, only 22 percent of college grads surveyed said they had such a mentor and 29 percent had an internship where they applied what they were learning. So less than a third were exposed to the things that mattered most.

Gallup's data were compiled from polls of parents of 5th through 12th graders, business leaders and interviews with teachers, superintendents, college presidents, principals, college graduates, Americans ages 18 to 34, and students in grades 5 through 12. All told, "we collected the voices of close to one million Americans in the past year alone," said Busteed, who added that he found the results "alarming"—not only because too few students are getting exposed to the most important drivers of workplace engagement, but because there is also a huge disconnect in perceptions of the problem.

Busteed said that 96 percent of the college provosts Gallup surveyed believed their schools were successfully preparing young people for the workplace. "When you ask recent college grads in the work force whether they felt prepared, only 14 percent say 'yes,'" he added. And then when you ask business leaders whether they're getting enough college grads with the skills they need, "only 11 percent strongly agree." Concluded Busteed: "This is not just a skills gap. It is an understanding gap."

This comes at a time when our country faces creative destruction on steroids thanks to the dynamism of technology and growing evidence that climbing the ladder of job success requires constant learning and relearning. Therefore, the need for schools to have a good grasp of what employers are looking for and for employers to be communicating with schools about those skills is greater than ever.

Some help may be on the way from Washington. Last year, President Obama quietly asked Vice President Joe Biden to oversee an overhaul of the government's education-to-work programs after hearing from one too many employers across the country that, as one White House official put it, "they were having trouble hiring workers for some of their fastest-growing jobs," such as operating sophisticated machine tools or software testing and debugging.

As they dove into the problem, said Byron Auguste, a White House deputy national economic adviser, they found that the success stories shared a lot of the same attributes that Gallup found to be differentiating. In successful programs, said Auguste, "students got as much applied, hands-on experience as possible, whether in a classroom or on a job site. Schools, colleges and training centers had close partnerships with regional employers, industry groups and skilled trade unions to stay up to date on job-relevant skills. And students or working learners got a lot of coaching and guidance to understand how to trace a direct path between their training today and careers tomorrow."

The key now is to scale those insights. The Labor Department has awarded \$1.5 billion in the last three years to more than 700 community colleges to develop employer-validated training programs for new careers like natural gas field work and cybersecurity. Later this month, another \$500 million is set to be awarded as part of a kind of race-to-the-top for whoever can build the best community college-industry group partnership anywhere in the country where new industries are finding gaps in the kind of workers they need.

Employers used to take generalists and train them into specialists for their industry. But fewer employers want to do that today or can afford to in a globally competitive economy, especially when they fear they'll train someone who will then leave for a competitor. So everyone wants employees out of college or technical schools who are as ready to plug and play as possible. That's why government has a role in fostering more and more employer-educator partnerships—this is the new, new thing—which businesses, small and large, can benefit from, as well as all would-be employees.●

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 2014 recipients of the Idaho Hometown Hero medal in the fourth year of the presentation of this recognition.

Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim established the Idaho Hometown Hero Award to recognize individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives. This award helps encourage those working for the betterment of our communities. I congratulate the 2014 award recipients and commend the Rahim brothers, the award's committee members, the cosponsors, volunteers, and other organizations supporting this honor for partnering to cast light on good works.

Nine extraordinary individuals are 2014 Hometown Hero Award recipients. Medical pioneer Dr. Lloyd Call helped establish the Washington Wyoming Alaska Montana Idaho Medical Education Program and the Idaho State University Family Practice Residency in Pocatello. Dedicated 11-year-old Alec Carlson assists his blind mother with their daily routines. Volunteer Lin Carlson helps seniors maintain healthy lifestyles. Sarah Anita Hibbert serves her community delivering toys and goodies to children in the hospital, and she collected over 4,500 pounds of shoes for orphanages through the national Shoes for Love drive.

Sergeant Mathew J. Krumwiede served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and does not let his injuries impede his achievements. Fifteen-year-old Adalaide "Addy" Mayer not only helps care for her father, who was injured serving our Nation in Iraq, but also serves as a volunteer athlete with the Special Olympics. George G. Nickel, who served our Nation in Operations Southern Watch in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, founded the Idaho Veterans Network to assist fellow veterans. Ann Toomey Walsh created Camp Magical Moments Cancer Camp for Kids to help improve the lives of children with cancer and their families. Helen Wayman Ward, who served as the music specialist for Malad Elementary School for more than 30 years, prevails over significant mental and physical health challenges in her family to give considerably of her time and talent to her community.

These Hometown Hero medal recipients join other veterans, businessmen, authors, physicians, advocates, athletes, teachers, coaches, writers, innovators, public servants, and others who have been recognized through this award. I am honored to be among the 2011 recipients of this medal and to have the opportunity to assist in recognizing the good work of the Rahims and this year's award recipients.

You are making a great difference in our communities, and your actions are inspiring others. You have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service worthy of this esteemed award. I wish you all the best on many more years of positive actions to celebrate.●

NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize National Model Aviation Day, celebrated across the country on August 16, 2014. This annual celebration encourages aeromodeling enthusiasts and model aviation clubs around the Nation to promote the hobby and to raise money for charitable causes.

Model aviation has long been respected as a safe and educational tool, dating back to Leonardo de Vinci's first design of "flying machines" in the late 1400s. This yearly celebration is intended to encourage the more than 2,300 model aviation clubs across the Nation to celebrate the wonder of flight and gather model aircraft enthusiasts together in lending a hand to our veterans.

The Federal Aviation Administration has acknowledged the Academy of Model Aeronautics—the Academy—for fostering model aircraft safety and helping the public to understand model aircraft safety. The Academy is a congressionally recognized community-based organization representing more than 164,000 members. The Academy will continue to promote National Model Aviation Day to people of all ages to learn and experience the thrill and fantasy of flight and I commend the Academy for its work.

This annual celebration is an event for all members of the community to enjoy, including the 11,000 annual visitors to the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, IN. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I sincerely wish everyone around the Nation a safe and happy National Model Aviation Day.●

REMEMBERING NICKOLAUS SCHULTZ

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Merrillville, IN police officer Nickolaus (Nick) Schultz. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Schultz was sworn into the Merrillville Police Department in 2013.

On Friday, September 5, 2014, Officer Schultz responded to an unwanted party call at Tempe Lake Condominiums in Merrillville. Upon arriving at the condominium where the suspect was believed to be hiding, Officer Schultz led a group of four Merrillville police officers into the unit. Moments after entering, the officers were ambushed. Two shots were fired at Officer Schultz, with one striking him in the head. Despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Schultz, 24, succumbed to his wounds on September 7, 2014.

"He led by example . . . It was no surprise to everyone that he was the first officer to approach the door on that night," said Reverend Peter Muha.

An Indiana native, Officer Schultz grew up in Lowell, where he attended

Lowell High School. Known for his outgoing, gregarious personality, athleticism, and concern for others, Nick was a varsity member of the championship Lowell football team. Nick went on to play football at Franklin College, where he became co-captain of the team. In 2013, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminal justice.

"He always wanted the best for people, and he always watched out for people," said Kristen Mikesell, a friend since childhood. According to many of his peers and Merrillville family members, Officer Schultz always wanted to help other people. "He was a teddy bear, but a strong man who wanted to make a difference," said Merrillville Police Chief Joseph Petruch. It was with this in mind that Officer Schultz's family allowed him to be of service one last time by choosing to donate his organs.

Officer Schultz is survived and deeply missed by his parents Dale and Coleen Schultz; sister Heather Schultz; paternal grandmother Charlotte Herring; maternal grandparents Rich and Pat Shields; girlfriend Emilee McInnis; numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; the Merrillville Police Department family; and Hoosiers throughout the State.

Officer Schultz loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Merrillville. Although he would have never considered himself a hero, Officer Schultz demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, son, brother, and friend—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, brave man set for us and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.●

REMEMBERING REVEREND LEONARD F. CHROBOT

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of the Reverend Leonard F. Chrobot. Humble, generous, and above all compassionate to those in need, Father Chrobot served in the priesthood for 50 years.

A native of South Bend, IN, Leonard Chrobot stayed in his hometown to attend St. Mary's College. He went on to attend Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1964. In subsequent years, Father Chrobot earned a Master's Degree in American Literature from Purdue University and a Doctorate from Wayne State University.

Father Chrobot served in various academic and pastoral positions during his life, including Academic Dean and President of St. Mary's College and Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the

American Polish Research Fellowship Program at the University of Notre Dame. He also served as Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Culver, IN, and St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig Parishes in South Bend. Father Chrobot was known for his ability to bring people together, regardless of their religious and ethnic backgrounds or their political views. "He was a kind, soft-spoken man who didn't like to see arguments, rather encouraging people to 'pray about it,'" recounted Rosanne Benassi, office manager for St. Hedwig's Parish.

Father Chrobot passed away on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. He is survived and deeply missed by his sister Joan Webber and brother-in-law Charles, brother Hank Chrobot, several nieces and nephews, the St. Mary's College family, the University of Notre Dame family, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, his parishioners, and Hoo-siers across the State.

Father Len, as he was affectionately known, loved his work and dedicated his life to the service of his fellow citizens. Although he would not have considered himself a hero, Father Chrobot demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as an educator, minister, religious consul, and friend to so many. Let us always treasure the memory of this great man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.●

GEAR UP HAWAII

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the successes of Hawaii's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP. Next Monday, September 22 marks the beginning of National GEAR UP Week.

GEAR UP is a national program that provides grants for States to help low-income students with college preparation, enrollment, and completion.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the University of Hawaii a 7-year GEAR-UP grant to improve college access and completion for low-income students. The P-20 Partnerships for Education manages this grant with its partners, the State Department of Education, the UH ten-campus system, and other public, non-profit, and private entities.

Hawaii GEAR UP is helping reach the goal of having 55 percent of working age adults hold a 2- or 4-year degree by 2025. In shorthand, "55 by '25.'" To reach this goal, GEAR UP Hawaii runs many programs to help low-income middle school and high school students focus on academic preparation, explore Early College options, learn more information about college access and financial aid, and improve college enrollment and completion.

In January of 2014, I had the chance to meet GEAR UP Hawaii students at Waipahu High School. The school's Early College High School program helps students earn college credit while still in high school.

One of the students I met was Juanito Moises, National GEAR UP Youth of the Year. He came to Hawaii from the Philippines at age 9, not speaking English. He took rigorous courses and eventually earned a 3.98 high school GPA. He will be the first in his family to attend a 4-year college, and thanks to GEAR UP he will already have English 100 out of the way.

Juanito is just one of the thousands of low-income students in Hawaii and nationwide who GEAR UP is working to serve. The program's results show that GEAR UP students are more likely to complete rigorous coursework, apply and enroll in college, and earn college degrees, when compared with other low-income students who do not have the opportunity to participate.

Since I first came to the House in 2007, I have supported Federal funding for GEAR UP program, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

During National GEAR UP Week, let's celebrate GEAR UP's success and continue our efforts to help Hawaii students enter and complete college.●

RECOGNIZING ZIONS BANK

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, next week, the Department of Defense will honor 15 companies with the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is the highest honor given by the Department of Defense to employers in recognition of exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve employees. One of the 15 companies to be honored at this event is Utah's own Zions Bank. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this company for its contribution to my home State and our Nation.

Zions Bank was founded 22 years before Utah gained her statehood. On July 10, 1873, under the direction of Brigham Young, Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company was incorporated. It was the first chartered savings bank and trust company in the Utah Territory. Soon after its highly successful opening day, Brigham Young wrote to a fellow Mormon in England: Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company opened for business on Thursday last. This institution is a cooperative one, and we think it is likely to meet with favor.

President Young and the other bank founders were right. Even though the bank opened just months before America's Long Depression, 1873-1879, was underway, the bank thrived.

Such economic tenacity was woven into the character of Zions Bank. During the Great Depression, the bank's livelihood was threatened when in February of 1932, depositors withdrew \$1.5

million in 2½ days. In order to quell the panic and reassure depositors that the bank was sound, bank President Heber J. Grant ordered signs to be posted at branch locations. The signs noted that the bank was "in a very strong, clean, liquid condition," and that it could "pay off every depositor in full." The note ended, "There is no safer bank in the state or the nation." Because of the trust that the bank developed with customers over previous decades, the panic was subdued and deposits quickly exceeded withdrawals. The bank stood firm in the midst of an extended national economic struggle. During every significant economic downturn since 1873, Zions Bank has weathered the storm and come out stronger for it. This success speaks to the impeccable leadership and business acumen of bank leaders and the hard work of Zions Bank employees.

While it is always important to look to foundational virtues, an organization cannot long survive without emulating those virtues in the present and perpetuating them into the future. Zions Bank continues to be a steadfast partner, not only with businesses and individuals but also with community and charitable organizations in Utah and throughout the Western United States. A large part of Utah's success—what we champion as the "Utah model"—are the Utah businesses that conduct their affairs with integrity and purpose. Zions Bank's famous motto, "We haven't forgotten who keeps us in business," speaks both to its integrity as a corporation and its purpose of creating lasting value for the customer and the community.

One excellent example of this community spirit is Zions' annual Paint-a-Thon. Starting in 1991, Zions Bank employees volunteered for 1 week each year to paint the homes of those in need, including the elderly, disabled citizens, and veterans. This year, 59 homes in Utah and Idaho will be painted, pushing the program past the milestone of 1,000 homes painted since its inception. In addition to the many hours volunteered by its employees, Zions Bank pays for all the paint and materials needed for the projects.

The Zions Bank example of service, which mirrors the spirit of service that one finds throughout Utah, is rooted in a love for fellow man, for country, and for goodness. Such love is the essence of the civil society and the key to real progress in our Nation. I believe that a crucial element of this love is showing appreciation for the men and women who willingly fight to secure our natural rights; for if our rights are taken from us, the civil society and rule of law are not possible.

Zions Bank shows their appreciation by making a special effort to see that their servicemembers' families are properly cared for when deployed. The bank provides internships and training for servicemembers and veterans through its innovative professional development program. For these reasons

and others, the bank was nominated for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award by Army National Guard 1LT Helaman Hurtado. Over 2,800 nominations were submitted for the award.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I congratulate Zions Bank on being honored as one of the 15 recipients of this award. I thank the bank's president, Scott Anderson, and his predecessors, and I thank the many hard-working employees who have served their fellow Utahns and others for over 140 years. Zions Bank and the extraordinary people who work and serve there strengthen my faith in the American dream and hope for a strong civil society. I urge my colleagues to come together in reducing the size, scope and burden of our government and regulations on free markets and civil society so that more companies are able to emulate the success and positive impact of principled and caring companies like Zions Bank.●

RECOGNIZING GRACE MEDICAL HOME

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the outstanding work of Grace Medical Home, a comprehensive medical clinic in my hometown of Orlando that provides a broad range of health services to low-income, uninsured residents in Central Florida.

Grace Medical Home provides 8,500 patient visits annually allowing 2,300 Floridians access to high quality medical services at little or no cost to the patient.

Both nationwide and in Florida, free and charitable clinics are a critical component of America's medical safety net.

Our country has a strong tradition of neighbors caring for neighbors, and nowhere is that more apparent than in our free and charitable clinics. There are approximately 1,200 of these clinics throughout the Nation that since the 1960s have been filling in the gap for those who "fall through the cracks" in our current health care system. These clinics believe in giving people a hand-up not a handout, and they activate at the grassroots level, utilizing a volunteer and staff model to provide a range of health care services to economically disadvantaged individuals.

Free and charitable clinics do not receive dedicated Federal funding. Instead, these clinics rely heavily on private donations from individual donors, foundations, grants, and volunteers, which allow them to keep their doors open and to deliver health care to those who need it the most.

Currently, the Affordable Care Act is making great strides to help millions of people gain insurance and access to health care. However, even with the most optimistic projections of health insurance enrollment or Medicaid expansion, roughly 30 million people will still be without health coverage. Therefore, free and charitable clinics

are and will continue to be an important part of our country's safety net.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress to better address the needs of the underserved with respect to affordability, accessibility, and portability of primary, specialty, dental care, and medication access. And I am thankful that free and charitable clinics across the country like Grace Medical Home are continuing to build a healthy America—one patient at a time.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PATRICK W. MILLER

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor MAJ Patrick W. Miller, U.S. Army, for his incredible courage and bravery on April 2, 2014, during the tragic Fort Hood shooting.

Major Miller was born and raised in Allegany, NY and was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 2003 after graduating from St. Bonaventure University. He has been deployed to Iraq for two tours, first as a commander of a platoon of medics and second as an adviser to the Iraqi Army. In August of 2013, he and his wife Ashley were assigned to Fort Hood, TX.

It was there, on the afternoon of April 2nd that a gunman opened fire in a shooting rampage. During that time, the shooter entered Major Miller's building and opened fire, immediately hitting Patrick in the abdomen, just 2 inches below his heart. Despite being critically wounded and at great risk to his own life, he rushed to get his fellow soldiers to safety in a closed office as quickly as possible. Then, while attempting to put pressure on his wound, still thinking of his fellow soldiers, he was able to make a call to 911 to report the shooting. In addition to wounding Major Miller, the shooter ended up killing 3 soldiers and wounding 15 others before taking his own life.

The heroic and distinguished acts by Major Miller, beyond a doubt, saved countless lives.

On behalf of the Nation and my fellow New Yorkers, it is my honor to recognize the exemplary service and overwhelming bravery of Major Miller during such a tragic event. I wish him the best as he continues to serve our great Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DONNA KUETHE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the achievements of Donna Kuethe Recreation Director for the town of Moultonborough, NH, who was recently named New England Woman of the Year by Every Child is Ours, ECIO, an organization dedicated to promoting universal educational opportunity. For 40 years Donna has been a tireless advocate for children's education, environmental stewardship and community recreation.

On the national and international stages, Donna has volunteered in New

Orleans and South Africa delivering emergency supplies to areas hard-hit by natural disasters. She has worked with Operation Recreation Relief, a group designed to help provide recreation services to areas impacted by disasters, in addition to focusing on assisting children in those areas through her work with the Save the Children foundation.

Back home in New Hampshire, Donna has been active throughout the State through her work with the Children in Nature initiative, the New Hampshire State Parks Great Park Pursuit and other programs focused on encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. She has also advocated for outdoor initiatives through her service on the House/Senate Committee on Child Care Licensing and as Chair of the Legislative Committee for New Hampshire Parks and Recreation.

Donna has also been a key leader at the Moultonborough Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to coaching New Hampshire high school students and establishing after-school programs, youth sports and summer day camps, and programs for seniors.

Donna's lifelong devotion to her community and the many organizations she has served is truly admirable, and her recognition as ECIO's New England Woman of the Year is well deserved. On behalf of Granite Staters everywhere, I thank Donna Kuethe for her service.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF PUEBLO

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 35th anniversary of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo and its history of serving Latino-owned businesses in Pueblo County, CO. Created in 1979 by an influential group of Pueblo businessmen, the Latino chamber was organized to harness the Pueblo Latino community's significant economic force.

Demonstrating vast community representation, the Latino chamber's 35 inaugural members included influential local leaders such as Judge Joe Ulibarri, Dr. Tom Autobee, Dr. Thomas Duran, Dr. Joe Roybal and Victor Tony Navarro. This diverse and respected initial membership consisted of architects, attorneys, business owners, medical professionals and others.

Since 1979, the Latino chamber has expanded in big ways. With nearly 1,000 members today, the Latino chamber is a respected, dynamic business organization in the area. Its resources and expertise help the organization serve as a launching pad for Latino leaders. Willing and eager to respond to its community's challenges, the Latino chamber played instrumental roles in the development of the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation, the El Pueblo Inter-development Corporation, the Southern Colorado International Trade Center and the Human Relations Commission.

Moreover, the Latino chamber has developed longstanding and successful collaborative relationships with state and federal entities, as well as with the Greater Pueblo chamber and the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation. In addition, it established the Latino Chamber Development Corporation Foundation in 1997 to advocate and promote leadership development in Pueblo with an emphasis on the Latino community.

The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo has spent 35 years advocating for small businesses, networking its partnerships, developing members professionally and growing alongside its community. Pueblo—and the State of Colorado—are truly fortunate to have such a world-class organization to assist businesses and build our economy. On behalf of Pueblo and all of Colorado congratulations, and thank you to the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo and its board members. You have left a lasting legacy that will continue to help the community for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICE WALKER POWELL

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Ms. Patrice Walker Powell, a remarkable Virginian who is retiring after 23 years at the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA. During her more than two decades of service, Ms. Powell has worked to broaden and deepen the engagement of diverse communities with the NEA and with arts stakeholders in urban and rural venues across America.

Ms. Powell's contributions to the NEA are too many to enumerate, but her leadership reflects a commitment to fiscally responsible management, sound stewardship through challenging times, and prolonged outreach to underrepresented communities. In response to leaner operational budgets, Ms. Powell was elevated to lead a department of several consolidated program areas, and was responsible for developing innovative approaches to advancing the agency's mission. Ms. Powell embraced public-private partnerships, innovative grant programs, and arts support programs to strengthen a diverse cultural infrastructure for the Nation.

As the agency began to acclimate to a reduced funding environment, NEA research showed that there were 20 States receiving 5 or fewer direct grants per year. Ms. Powell devised a comprehensive pilot strategy that collaborated with State arts agencies to hold staff-led seminars on NEA funding opportunities and identify potential applicants. Over the course of the 3-year commitment to this pilot program, the number of NEA-supported projects in these States increased by 350 percent.

Under her leadership, the NEA undertook a massive modernization project focused on access and outreach. As a

result, every publication produced by the NEA has been digitized and is now available electronically to students and to the general public. This achievement has been praised as a significant contribution toward ensuring that the record of the agency's history is maintained for the future.

Ms. Powell's dedication to the NEA would ultimately result in her being called upon to serve as Acting Chair. She has proudly represented her country in the international arts arena, including on delegations to South Africa, Germany, Senegal, and Austria. Although these accomplishments are but some of the highlights of Ms. Powell's career, they exemplify her proven record of public service and advocacy for the arts and our Nation. I thank her for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement.●

CONSTITUTION DAY

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, September 17 was Constitution Day—a day when folks are encouraged to teach and learn about the Constitution. I would like to recognize the middle and high school students from across the Nation who traveled to the U.S. Capitol yesterday in honor of Constitution and Citizenship Day.

I would also like to recognize the students unable to travel to Washington, DC, who are no less engaged in their studies of the Constitution and citizenship, specifically the many students in my home State of Oregon who have shown a strong commitment to civic engagement. These young Oregonians have demonstrated a willingness to get involved in their communities and work for positive change and are an example of the important role community involvement plays in developing a strong society.

Of the students able to be in Washington, DC, on Constitution Day, I would particularly like to recognize several middle school students from Oregon who visited my office yesterday.

Alyssa Etheridge and several of her classmates from South Middle School located in Grants Pass, OR, dedicated every day of the last school year to honor the 142 Oregon soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. These young women created the Bayard Wilkeson Project—named for a Civil War officer killed at the battle of Gettysburg—a Web site designed to educate Oregonians about the lives of those servicemembers from our State who have given their lives for our country.

Coming from Portland, OR, William Britton and his seventh grade class from Southwest Charter School studied and considered the problem of outdoor secondhand smoke, and its impact on the health of their community. They conducted surveys, interviews, and lobbied some of their local elected officials to control secondhand smoke exposure.

It is wonderful to see these students participate so actively in the democratic process, and it is truly heartening to see so many young people taking the time to get involved and express their opinions. I am pleased to be able to recognize the commitment and dedication these young Oregonians have shown to better their communities and urge them to keep up their good works.●

ADDRESSING THE ENERGY NEEDS OF U.S. INSULAR AREAS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 83, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that a Murkowski substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3928) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3928

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy action plan” means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas” means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (90 Stat. 263; 122 Stat. 854) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 83), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

PAUL D. WELLSTONE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 529, H.R. 594.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 594) to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 594) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

INTERSTATE LAND SALES FULL DISCLOSURE ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2600 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2600) to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2600) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3043.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3043) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3043) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

WATER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AFFECTING THE PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 484, H.R. 3716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3716) to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3716) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IMPACT ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4994, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4994) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4994) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXAMINATION AND SUPERVISORY PRIVILEGE PARITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5062 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5062) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5062) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5404, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5404) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5404) was ordered to a third reading, was read a third time, and passed.

FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 372, S. 1611.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1611) to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1611

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Data Center Consolidation Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means the following (including all associated components of the agency):

- (A) Department of Agriculture;
- (B) Department of Commerce;
- (C) Department of Defense;

- (D) Department of Education;
- (E) Department of Energy;
- (F) Department of Health and Human Services;
- (G) Department of Homeland Security;
- (H) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (I) Department of the Interior;
- (J) Department of Justice;
- (K) Department of Labor;
- (L) Department of State;
- (M) Department of Transportation;
- (N) Department of Treasury;
- (O) Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (P) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (Q) General Services Administration;
- (R) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- (S) National Science Foundation;
- (T) Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
- (U) Office of Personnel Management;
- (V) Small Business Administration;
- (W) Social Security Administration; and
- (X) United States Agency for International Development.

(3) FDCCI.—The term “FDCCI” means the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, dated February 26, 2010, or any successor thereto.

(4) GOVERNMENT-WIDE DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND OPTIMIZATION METRICS.—The term “Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics” means the metrics established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(2)(G).

(b) FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INVENTORIES AND STRATEGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, assisted by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall submit to the Administrator—

(i) a comprehensive inventory of the data centers owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

(ii) a multi-year strategy to achieve the consolidation and optimization of the data centers inventoried under clause (i), that includes—

(I) performance metrics—

(aa) that are consistent with the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) by which the quantitative and qualitative progress of the agency toward the goals of the FDCCI can be measured;

(II) a timeline for agency activities to be completed under the FDCCI, with an emphasis on benchmarks the agency can achieve by specific dates;

(III) year-by-year calculations of investment and cost savings for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e), broken down by each year, including a description of any initial costs for data center consolidation and optimization and life cycle cost savings and other improvements, with an emphasis on—

(aa) meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) demonstrating the amount of agency-specific cost savings each fiscal year achieved through the FDCCI; and

(IV) any additional information required by the Administrator.

(B) USE OF OTHER REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Administrator may require a covered agency to include the information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures determined by the Administrator to be appropriate.

(C) STATEMENT.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, acting through

the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i) submit a statement to the Administrator stating whether the agency has complied with the requirements of this Act; and

(II) make the statement submitted under subclause (I) publicly available; and

(ii) if the agency has not complied with the requirements of this Act, submit a statement to the Administrator explaining the reasons for not complying with such requirements.

(D) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES.—Each covered agency, under the direction of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i) implement the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(ii) provide updates to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis, of—

(I) the completion of activities by the agency under the FDCCI;

(II) any progress of the agency towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(III) the actual cost savings and other improvements realized through the implementation of the strategy of the agency.

(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the reporting of information by a covered agency to the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish the deadline, on an annual basis, for covered agencies to submit information under this section;

(B) establish a list of requirements that the covered agencies must meet to be considered in compliance with paragraph (1);

(C) ensure that information relating to agency progress towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics is made available in a timely manner to the general public;

(D) review the inventories and strategies submitted under paragraph (1) to determine whether they are comprehensive and complete;

(E) monitor the implementation of the data center strategy of each covered agency that is required under paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

(F) update, on an annual basis, the cumulative cost savings realized through the implementation of the FDCCI; and

(G) establish metrics applicable to the consolidation and optimization of data centers Government-wide, including metrics with respect to—

(i) costs;

(ii) efficiencies, including at least server efficiency; and

(iii) any other metrics the Administrator establishes under this subparagraph.

(3) COST SAVING GOAL AND UPDATES FOR CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop, and make publicly available, a goal, broken down by year, for the amount of planned cost savings and optimization improvements achieved through the FDCCI during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e).

(B) ANNUAL UPDATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the goal described in subparagraph (A) is made publicly available, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall aggregate the reported cost savings of each covered agency and optimization improvements achieved to date through the FDCCI and compare the savings to the projected cost savings and optimization improvements developed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) UPDATE FOR CONGRESS.—The goal required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and shall be accompanied by a statement describing—

(I) whether each covered agency has in fact submitted a comprehensive asset inventory, including an assessment broken down by agency, which shall include the specific numbers, utilization, and efficiency level of data centers; and

(II) whether each covered agency has submitted a comprehensive consolidation strategy with the key elements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(4) GAO REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and verify the quality and completeness of the asset inventory and strategy of each covered agency required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, on an annual basis, publish a report on each review conducted under subparagraph (A).

(c) ENSURING CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—In implementing a data center consolidation and optimization strategy under this Act, a covered agency shall do so in a manner that is consistent with Federal guidelines on cloud computing security, including—

(A) applicable provisions found within the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP); and

(B) guidance published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the ability of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to update or modify the Federal guidelines on cloud computing security.

(d) WAIVER OF DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence may waive the applicability to any element (or component of an element) of the intelligence community of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(e) SUNSET.—This Act is repealed effective on October 1, 2018.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered, the Bennet and Carper amendments, which are at the desk, be agreed to en bloc, and the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3930) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify reporting requirements for the Department of Defense)

On page 16, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

The amendment (No. 3929) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the provision relating to waiver of requirements)

On page 22, strike lines 11 through 24, and insert the following:

(d) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1611), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1611

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Data Center Consolidation Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means the following (including all associated components of the agency):

- (A) Department of Agriculture;
- (B) Department of Commerce;
- (C) Department of Defense;
- (D) Department of Education;
- (E) Department of Energy;
- (F) Department of Health and Human Services;
- (G) Department of Homeland Security;
- (H) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (I) Department of the Interior;

- (J) Department of Justice;
- (K) Department of Labor;
- (L) Department of State;
- (M) Department of Transportation;
- (N) Department of Treasury;
- (O) Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (P) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (Q) General Services Administration;
- (R) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- (S) National Science Foundation;
- (T) Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
- (U) Office of Personnel Management;
- (V) Small Business Administration;
- (W) Social Security Administration; and
- (X) United States Agency for International Development.

(3) FDCCI.—The term “FDCCI” means the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, dated February 26, 2010, or any successor thereto.

(4) GOVERNMENT-WIDE DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND OPTIMIZATION METRICS.—The term “Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics” means the metrics established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(2)(G).

(b) FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INVENTORIES AND STRATEGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, assisted by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall submit to the Administrator—

(i) a comprehensive inventory of the data centers owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

(ii) a multi-year strategy to achieve the consolidation and optimization of the data centers inventoried under clause (i), that includes—

(I) performance metrics—

(aa) that are consistent with the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) by which the quantitative and qualitative progress of the agency toward the goals of the FDCCI can be measured;

(II) a timeline for agency activities to be completed under the FDCCI, with an emphasis on benchmarks the agency can achieve by specific dates;

(III) year-by-year calculations of investment and cost savings for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e), broken down by each year, including a description of any initial costs for data center consolidation and optimization and life cycle cost savings and other improvements, with an emphasis on—

(aa) meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) demonstrating the amount of agency-specific cost savings each fiscal year achieved through the FDCCI; and

(IV) any additional information required by the Administrator.

(B) USE OF OTHER REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Administrator may require a covered agency to include the information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures determined by the Administrator to be appropriate.

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

(D) STATEMENT.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i)(I) submit a statement to the Administrator stating whether the agency has complied with the requirements of this Act; and

(II) make the statement submitted under subclause (I) publicly available; and

(ii) if the agency has not complied with the requirements of this Act, submit a statement to the Administrator explaining the reasons for not complying with such requirements.

(E) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES.—Each covered agency, under the direction of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i) implement the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(ii) provide updates to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis, of—

(I) the completion of activities by the agency under the FDCCI;

(II) any progress of the agency towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(III) the actual cost savings and other improvements realized through the implementation of the strategy of the agency.

(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the reporting of information by a covered agency to the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish the deadline, on an annual basis, for covered agencies to submit information under this section;

(B) establish a list of requirements that the covered agencies must meet to be considered in compliance with paragraph (1);

(C) ensure that information relating to agency progress towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics is made available in a timely manner to the general public;

(D) review the inventories and strategies submitted under paragraph (1) to determine whether they are comprehensive and complete;

(E) monitor the implementation of the data center strategy of each covered agency that is required under paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

(F) update, on an annual basis, the cumulative cost savings realized through the implementation of the FDCCI; and

(G) establish metrics applicable to the consolidation and optimization of data centers Government-wide, including metrics with respect to—

(i) costs;

(ii) efficiencies, including at least server efficiency; and

(iii) any other metrics the Administrator establishes under this subparagraph.

(3) COST SAVING GOAL AND UPDATES FOR CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop, and make publicly available, a goal, broken down by year, for the amount of planned cost savings and optimization improvements achieved through the FDCCI during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e).

(B) ANNUAL UPDATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the goal described in subparagraph (A) is made publicly available, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall aggregate the reported cost savings of each covered agency and optimization improvements achieved to date through the FDCCI and compare the savings to the projected cost savings and optimization improvements developed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) UPDATE FOR CONGRESS.—The goal required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and shall be accompanied by a statement describing—

(I) whether each covered agency has in fact submitted a comprehensive asset inventory, including an assessment broken down by agency, which shall include the specific numbers, utilization, and efficiency level of data centers; and

(II) whether each covered agency has submitted a comprehensive consolidation strategy with the key elements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(4) GAO REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and verify the quality and completeness of the asset inventory and strategy of each covered agency required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, on an annual basis, publish a report on each review conducted under subparagraph (A).

(C) ENSURING CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing a data center consolidation and optimization strategy under this Act, a covered agency shall do so in a manner that is consistent with Federal guidelines on cloud computing security, including—

(A) applicable provisions found within the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP); and

(B) guidance published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the ability of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to update or modify the Federal guidelines on cloud computing security.

(d) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intel-

ligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(e) SUNSET.—This Act is repealed effective on October 1, 2018.

BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 548, S. 1691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1691) to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1691

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—*The purposes of this Act are—*

(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents are sufficiently ready to conduct necessary work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retains the right to assign scheduled and unscheduled work for mission requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) RATES OF PAY.—*Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:*

“§5550. Border patrol rate of pay

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section—*

“(1) the term ‘basic border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol, as determined without regard to this section;

“(2) the term ‘border patrol agent’ means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

“(3) the term ‘level 1 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

“(4) the term ‘level 2 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.125 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

“(5) the term ‘work period’ means a 14-day bi-weekly pay period.

“(b) RECEIPT OF BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—

“(1) VOLUNTARY ELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—*Not later than 30 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a border patrol agent shall make an election whether the border patrol agent shall, for that year, be assigned to—*

“(i) the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;
 “(ii) the level 2 border patrol rate of pay; or
 “(iii) the basic border patrol rate of pay, with additional overtime assigned as needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations establishing procedures for elections under subparagraph (A).

“(C) INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION.—Not later than 60 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide each border patrol agent with information regarding each type of election available under subparagraph (A) and how to make such an election.

“(D) ASSIGNMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

“(i) a border patrol agent who fails to make a timely election under subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;
 “(ii) a border patrol agent who is assigned a canine shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(iii) if at any time U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis in accordance with this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall assign the border patrol agent to the basic border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis;

“(iv) unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be allowed to elect or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, a border patrol agent shall be assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

“(I) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

“(II) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

“(III) in an administrative position; or

“(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

“(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (E).

“(E) FLEXIBILITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(ii) WAIVER.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if, based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

“(iii) CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(F) CANINE CARE.—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii)—

“(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

“(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on the regular workday; and

“(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

“(G) PAY ASSIGNMENT CONTINUITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the assignment of a border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the average border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

“(ii) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, or the basic border patrol rate of pay, to implement the plan developed under this subparagraph.

“(iii) REPORTING.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (i) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(iv) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection issues the plan required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

“(v) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(vi) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

“(2) LEVEL 1 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 25 percent supplement within the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime

hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agency is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(3) LEVEL 2 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 12.5 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is excused from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agency is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(4) **BASIC BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with 8 hours of regular time per workday; and

“(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

“(C) **ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER PREMIUM PAY.**—A border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive premium pay for nightwork in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 5545 and Sunday and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

“(A) no premium pay for night, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) or (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (b), consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) or (3)(C) of subsection (b); and

“(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

“(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

“(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

“(d) **TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.**—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as part of basic pay solely for—

“(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8704(c);

“(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

“(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

“(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

“(e) **TRAVEL TIME.**—Travel time to and from home and duty station by a border patrol agent shall not be considered hours of work under any provision of law.

“(f) **LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND SUBSTITUTION OF HOURS.**—

“(1) **REGULAR TIME.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent, but in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

“(B) **PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.**—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

“(C) **PRIORITY FOR REGULAR TIME SUBSTITUTION.**—Hours of work shall be substituted for regular time work under this paragraph before being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

“(2) **OVERTIME WORK.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and credited as scheduled overtime; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

“(B) **PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.**—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

“(3) **APPLICATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME.**—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient additional work in a work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

“(4) **INSUFFICIENT HOURS.**—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied towards the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

“(g) **AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OVERTIME WORK.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform hours of overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including if needed in the event of a local or national emergency.”.

(c) **OVERTIME WORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) In applying subsection (a) with respect to a border patrol agent covered by section 5550, the following rules apply:

“(1) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(2) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(3) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with

paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a 14-day biweekly pay period, a border patrol agent may not earn compensatory time off for more than 10 hours of overtime work.

“(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, as it determines appropriate, waive the limitation under subparagraph (A) for an individual border patrol agent for hours of irregular or occasional overtime work, but such waiver must be approved in writing in advance of the performance of any such work for which compensatory time off is earned under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), or (3)(B)(ii). If a waiver request by a border patrol agent is denied, the border patrol agent may not be ordered to perform the associated overtime work.

“(5) A border patrol agent—

“(A) may not earn more than 240 hours of compensatory time off during a leave year;

“(B) shall use any hours of compensatory time off not later than the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period during which the compensatory time off was earned;

“(C) shall be required to use 1 hour of compensatory time off for each hour of regular time not worked for which the border patrol agent is not on paid leave or other paid time off or does not substitute time in accordance with section 5550(f);

“(D) shall forfeit any compensatory time off not used in accordance with this paragraph and, regardless of circumstances, shall not be entitled to any cash value for compensatory time earned under section 5550;

“(E) shall not receive credit towards the computation of the annuity of the border patrol agent for compensatory time, whether used or not; and

“(F) shall not be credited with compensatory time off if the value of such time off would cause the aggregate premium pay of the border patrol agent to exceed the limitation established under section 5547 in the period in which it was earned.”.

(2) **MINIMIZATION OF OVERTIME.**—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid the use of scheduled overtime work by border patrol agents.

(d) **RETIREMENT.**—Section 8331(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(3) by inserting a new subparagraph after subparagraph (H) as follows:

“(I) with respect to a border patrol agent, the amount of supplemental pay received through application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for scheduled overtime within the regular tour of duty of the border patrol agent as provided in section 5550;”;

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (H), by striking “subparagraphs (B) through (H)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) through (I)”.

(e) **COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING ANALYSIS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, and submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report, that—

(A) examines the staffing requirements for U.S. Border Patrol to most effectively meet its operational requirements at each Border Patrol duty station;

(B) estimates the cost of the staffing requirements at each Border Patrol duty station; and

(C) includes—

(i) a position-by-position review at each Border Patrol station to determine—

(I) the duties assigned to each position;

(II) how the duties relate to the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol; and

(III) the number of hours border patrol agents in that position would need to work each pay period to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol;

(ii) the metrics used to determine the number of hours of work performed at each Border Patrol station, broken down by the type of hours worked;

(iii) a cost analysis of the most recent full fiscal year by the type of full-time equivalent hours worked;

(iv) a cost estimate by the type of full-time equivalent hours expected to be worked during the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(v) an analysis that compares the cost of assigning the full-time equivalent hours needed to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol to existing border patrol agents through higher rates of pay versus recruiting, hiring, training, and deploying additional border patrol agents.

(2) **INDEPENDENT VALIDATOR.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(2) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(3) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code is amended by—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, “and” before “5546”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and 5550” after “5546 (a) and (b)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Any supplemental pay resulting from receipt of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550 shall be considered premium pay in applying this section.”.

(2) Section 13(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(18) any employee who is a border patrol agent, as defined in section 5550(a) of title 5, United States Code.”.

(3) The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

“5550. Border patrol rate of pay.”.

(h) **REGULATIONS.**—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered; the Carper amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3931) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in Today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1691), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1691

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents are sufficiently ready to conduct necessary work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retains the right to assign scheduled and unscheduled work for mission requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) **RATES OF PAY.**—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:

“§ 5550. Border patrol rate of pay

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘basic border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol, as determined without regard to this section;

“(2) the term ‘border patrol agent’ means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

“(3) the term ‘level 1 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to

1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

“(4) the term ‘level 2 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.125 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

“(5) the term ‘work period’ means a 14-day biweekly pay period.

“(b) **RECEIPT OF BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—

“(1) **VOLUNTARY ELECTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a border patrol agent shall make an election whether the border patrol agent shall, for that year, be assigned to—

“(i) the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) the level 2 border patrol rate of pay; or

“(iii) the basic border patrol rate of pay, with additional overtime assigned as needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(B) **REGULATIONS.**—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations establishing procedures for elections under subparagraph (A).

“(C) **INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION.**—Not later than 60 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide each border patrol agent with information regarding each type of election available under subparagraph (A) and how to make such an election.

“(D) **ASSIGNMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

“(i) a border patrol agent who fails to make a timely election under subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) a border patrol agent who is assigned a canine shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(iii) if at any time U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis in accordance with this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall assign the border patrol agent to the basic border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis;

“(iv) unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be allowed to elect or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, a border patrol agent shall be assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

“(I) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

“(II) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

“(III) in an administrative position; or

“(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

“(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (E).

“(E) **FLEXIBILITY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents

stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(ii) **WAIVER.**—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if, based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

“(iii) **CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Clause (i) shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(F) **CANINE CARE.**—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii)—

“(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

“(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on the regular workday; and

“(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

“(G) **PAY ASSIGNMENT CONTINUITY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the assignment of a border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the average border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

“(ii) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, or the basic border patrol rate of pay, to implement the plan developed under this subparagraph.

“(iii) **REPORTING.**—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (i) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(iv) **GAO REVIEW.**—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection issues the plan required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

“(v) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(vi) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

“(2) **LEVEL 1 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 25 percent supplement within the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(3) **LEVEL 2 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 12.5 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is excused from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(4) **BASIC BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with 8 hours of regular time per workday; and

“(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

“(c) **ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER PREMIUM PAY.**—A border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive premium pay for night-work in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 5545 and Sunday and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

“(A) no premium pay for night, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) or (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (b), consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) or (3)(C) of subsection (b); and

“(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

“(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

“(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

“(d) **TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.**—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as part of basic pay solely for—

“(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8704(c);

“(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

“(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

“(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

“(e) TRAVEL TIME.—Travel time to and from home and duty station by a border patrol agent shall not be considered hours of work under any provision of law.

“(f) LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND SUBSTITUTION OF HOURS.—

“(1) REGULAR TIME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent, but in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

“(C) PRIORITY FOR REGULAR TIME SUBSTITUTION.—Hours of work shall be substituted for regular time work under this paragraph before being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

“(2) OVERTIME WORK.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and credited as scheduled overtime; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

“(3) APPLICATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME.—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient additional work in a work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

“(4) INSUFFICIENT HOURS.—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied towards the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

“(g) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OVERTIME WORK.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform hours of overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including if needed in the event of a local or national emergency.”.

(c) OVERTIME WORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) In applying subsection (a) with respect to a border patrol agent covered by section 5550, the following rules apply:

“(1) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(2) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(3) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a 14-day biweekly pay period, a border patrol agent may not earn compensatory time off for more than 10 hours of overtime work.

“(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, as it determines appropriate, waive the limitation under subparagraph (A) for an individual border patrol agent for hours of irregular or occasional overtime work, but such waiver must be approved in writing in advance of the performance of any such work for which compensatory time off is earned under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), or (3)(B)(ii). If a waiver request by a border patrol agent is denied, the border patrol agent may not be ordered to perform the associated overtime work.

“(5) A border patrol agent—

“(A) may not earn more than 240 hours of compensatory time off during a leave year;

“(B) shall use any hours of compensatory time off not later than the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period during which the compensatory time off was earned;

“(C) shall be required to use 1 hour of compensatory time off for each hour of regular time not worked for which the border patrol agent is not on paid leave or other paid time off or does not substitute time in accordance with section 5550(f);

“(D) shall forfeit any compensatory time off not used in accordance with this paragraph and, regardless of circumstances, shall not be entitled to any cash value for compensatory time earned under section 5550;

“(E) shall not receive credit towards the computation of the annuity of the border pa-

trol agent for compensatory time, whether used or not; and

“(F) shall not be credited with compensatory time off if the value of such time off would cause the aggregate premium pay of the border patrol agent to exceed the limitation established under section 5547 in the period in which it was earned.”.

(2) MINIMIZATION OF OVERTIME.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid the use of scheduled overtime work by border patrol agents.

(d) RETIREMENT.—Section 8331(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(3) by inserting a new subparagraph after subparagraph (H) as follows:

“(I) with respect to a border patrol agent, the amount of supplemental pay received through application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for scheduled overtime within the regular tour of duty of the border patrol agent as provided in section 5550;” and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (H), by striking “subparagraphs (B) through (H)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) through (I)”.

(e) COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, and submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report, that—

(A) examines the staffing requirements for U.S. Border Patrol to most effectively meet its operational requirements at each Border Patrol duty station;

(B) estimates the cost of the staffing requirements at each Border Patrol duty station; and

(C) includes—

(i) a position-by-position review at each Border Patrol station to determine—

(I) the duties assigned to each position;

(II) how the duties relate to the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol; and

(III) the number of hours border patrol agents in that position would need to work each pay period to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol;

(ii) the metrics used to determine the number of hours of work performed at each Border Patrol station, broken down by the type of hours worked;

(iii) a cost analysis of the most recent full fiscal year by the type of full-time equivalent hours worked;

(iv) a cost estimate by the type of full-time equivalent hours expected to be worked during the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(v) an analysis that compares the cost of assigning the full-time equivalent hours needed to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol to existing border patrol agents through higher rates of pay versus recruiting, hiring, training, and deploying additional border patrol agents.

(2) INDEPENDENT VALIDATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(2) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(3) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code is amended by—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, “and” before “5546”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and 5550” after “5546 (a) and (b)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Any supplemental pay resulting from receipt of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550 shall be considered premium pay in applying this section.”.

(2) Section 13(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(18) any employee who is a border patrol agent, as defined in section 5550(a) of title 5, United States Code.”.

(3) The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

“5550. Border patrol rate of pay.”.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), add the following:

“SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.—The term ‘collective bargaining agreement’ has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term ‘excepted service’ has the meaning given that

term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

“(4) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—The term ‘preference eligible’ has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

“(5) QUALIFIED POSITION.—The term ‘qualified position’ means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the incumbent performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

“(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘Senior Executive Service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) ESTABLISH POSITIONS, APPOINT PERSONNEL, AND FIX RATES OF PAY.—

“(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may—

“(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

“(I) senior level positions designated under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(II) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

“(ii) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

“(iii) subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

“(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

“(2) BASIC PAY.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES OF BASIC PAY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under paragraph (1) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

“(B) PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may, consistent with section 5341 of title 5, United States Code, adopt such provisions of that title as provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay and may apply those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of that title.

“(3) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.—

“(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BASED ON TITLE 5 AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

“(B) ALLOWANCES IN NONFOREIGN AREAS.—An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under paragraph (2)(A) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section 5941, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

“(4) PLAN FOR EXECUTION OF AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of en-

actment of this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with a plan for the use of the authorities provided under this subsection.

“(5) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

“(6) REQUIRED REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

“(1) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans’ preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

“(2) describes—

“(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

“(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress; and

“(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

“(3) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

“(4) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

“(A) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

“(C) the total number of veterans hired;

“(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(E) the number of retirements of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(5) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

“(d) THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

“(e) INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

“(f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs

Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

“(1) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting “or” after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002;”.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

“Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention.”.

SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms “Cybersecurity Work Category”, “Data Element Code”, and “Specialty Area” have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management’s Guide to Data Standards.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions within the Department;

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(C) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management’s Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education’s National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—

(A) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures—

(i) to identify open positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the OPM Guide to Data Standards); and

(ii) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(B) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to—

(i) each employee within the Department who carries out cybersecurity functions; and

(ii) each open position within the Department that have been identified as having cybersecurity functions.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), and annually through 2021, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need in the Department’s cybersecurity workforce; and

(B) submit a report to the Director that—

(i) describes the Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) substantiates the critical need designations.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall provide the Secretary with timely guidance for identifying Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(A) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(B) Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(3) CYBERSECURITY CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLACKFOOT RIVER LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2040.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2040) to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Crapo substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment No. (3932) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe with tribal headquarters at Fort Hall, Idaho—

(A) adopted a tribal constitution and bylaws on March 31, 1936, that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”);

(B) has entered into various treaties with the United States, including the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger, executed on July 3, 1868; and

(C) has maintained a continuous government-to-government relationship with the United States since the earliest years of the Union;

(2)(A) in 1867, President Andrew Johnson designated by Executive order the Fort Hall Reservation for various bands of Shoshone and Bannock Indians;

(B) the Reservation is located near the cities of Blackfoot and Pocatello in southeastern Idaho; and

(C) article 4 of the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger secured the Reservation as a “permanent home” for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

(3)(A) according to the Executive order referred to in paragraph (2)(A), the Blackfoot River, as the river existed in its natural state—

(i) is the northern boundary of the Reservation; and

(ii) flows in a westerly direction along that northern boundary; and

(B) within the Reservation, land use in the River watershed is dominated by—

(i) rangeland;

(ii) dry and irrigated farming; and

(iii) residential development;

(4)(A) in 1964, the Corps of Engineers completed a local flood protection project on the River—

(i) authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 170); and

(ii) sponsored by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7;

(B) the project consisted of building levees, replacing irrigation diversion structures, replacing bridges, and channel realignment; and

(C) the channel realignment portion of the project severed various parcels of land located contiguous to the River along the boundary of the Reservation, resulting in Indian land being located north of the Realigned River and non-Indian land being located south of the Realigned River;

(5) beginning in 1999, the Cadastral Survey Office of the Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys of—

- (A) 25 parcels of Indian land; and
- (B) 19 parcels of non-Indian land; and

(6) the enactment of this Act and separate agreements of the parties would represent a resolution of the disputes described in subsection (b)(1) among—

- (A) the Tribes;
- (B) the allottees; and
- (C) the non-Indian landowners.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the land ownership and land use disputes resulting from realignment of the River by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(2) to achieve a final and fair solution to resolve those disputes.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALLOTTEE.—The term “allottee” means an heir of an original allottee of the Reservation who owns an interest in a parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the allottee; and

(B) located north of the Realigned River within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

(2) BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT NO. 7.—The term “Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7” means the governmental subdivision in the State of Idaho, located at 75 East Judicial, Blackfoot, Idaho, that—

(A) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the Realigned River; and

(B) represents the non-Indian landowners relating to the resolution of the disputes described in section 2(b)(1) in accordance with this Act.

(3) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land” means any parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes or the allottees;

(B) located north of the Realigned River; and

(C) identified in exhibit A of the survey of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Survey of the Blackfoot River of 2002 to 2005”, which is located at—

(i) the Fort Hall Indian Agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

(4) NON-INDIAN LAND.—The term “non-Indian land” means any parcel of fee land that is—

(A) located south of the Realigned River; and

(B) identified in exhibit B, which is located at the areas described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(C).

(5) NON-INDIAN LANDOWNER.—The term “non-Indian landowner” means any individual who holds fee title to non-Indian land and is represented by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for purposes of this Act.

(6) REALIGNED RIVER.—The term “Realigned River” means that portion of the River that was realigned by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in section 2(a)(4)(A).

(7) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation” means the Fort Hall Reservation established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

(8) RIVER.—The term “River” means the Blackfoot River located in the State of Idaho.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) TRIBES.—The term “Tribes” means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO CERTAIN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OWNED LANDS.

(a) RELEASE OF CLAIMS.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) all existing and future claims with respect to the Indian land and the non-Indian land and all right, title, and interest that the Tribes, allottees, non-Indian landowners, and the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may have had to that land shall be extinguished;

(2) any interest of the Tribes, the allottees, or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribes or allottees, in the Indian land shall be extinguished under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Intercourse Act”) (25 U.S.C. 177); and

(3) to the extent any interest in non-Indian land transferred into trust pursuant to section 5 violates section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Intercourse Act”) (25 U.S.C. 177), that transfer shall be valid, subject to the condition that the transfer is consistent with all other applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary may execute and file any appropriate documents (including a plat or map of the transferred Indian land) that are suitable for filing with the Bingham County clerk or other appropriate county official, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. NON-INDIAN LAND TO BE PLACED INTO TRUST FOR TRIBES.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the non-Indian land shall be considered to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes.

SEC. 6. TRUST LAND TO BE CONVERTED TO FEE LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for use or sale in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 shall use any proceeds from the sale of land described in subsection (a) according to the following priorities:

(A) To compensate, at fair market value, each non-Indian landowner for the net loss of land to that non-Indian landowner resulting from the implementation of this Act.

(B) To compensate the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for any administrative or other expenses relating to carrying out this Act.

(2) REMAINING LAND.—If any land remains to be conveyed or proceeds remain after the sale of the land, the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may dispose of that remaining land or proceeds as the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON ORIGINAL RESERVATION BOUNDARY.

Nothing in this Act affects the original boundary of the Reservation, as established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

SEC. 8. EFFECT ON TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act extinguishes or conveys any water right of the Tribes, as established in the agreement entitled “1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement” and ratified by section 4 of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-602; 104 Stat. 3060).

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act affects the obligation of Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 to maintain adequate rights-of-way for the operation and maintenance of the local flood protection projects described in section 2(a)(4) pursuant to agreements between the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 and the Corps of Engineers.

(b) RESTRICTION ON FEES.—Any land conveyed to the Tribes pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to fees assessed by Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

SEC. 10. DISCLAIMERS REGARDING CLAIMS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects in any manner the sovereign claim of the State of Idaho to title in and to the beds and banks of the River under the equal footing doctrine of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) affects any action by the State of Idaho to establish the title described in paragraph (1) under section 2409a of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Quiet Title Act”);

(3) affects the ability of the Tribes or the United States to claim ownership of the beds and banks of the River; or

(4) extinguishes or conveys any water rights of non-Indian landowners or the claims of those landowners to water rights in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The bill (S. 2040), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 565, S. 2061.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2061) to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2061

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Conflicts of Interest with Contractors Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “agency” means—

(A) an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) a military department (as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code);

(C) an element of the intelligence community (as that term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(D) the United States Postal Service; and

(E) the Postal Regulatory Commission;

(2) the term “background investigation fieldwork services” means the investigatory fieldwork conducted to determine the eligibility of an individual for logical and physical access to Federally-controlled facilities or information systems, suitability or fitness for Federal employment, eligibility for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position, or fitness to perform work for or

on behalf of the Federal Government as a contractor or employee, including—

(A) interviews of the individual, the employer of the individual, former employers of the individual, and friends, family, and other sources who might have relevant knowledge of the individual; and

(B) reviews of—

- (i) educational and employment records;
- (ii) criminal and other legal records; and
- (iii) credit history;

(3) the term “background investigation support services” means the clerical, administrative, and technical support services provided to various functions critical to the background investigation process, including—

(A) initial processing and scheduling of investigative requests;

(B) information technology and information technology support;

(C) file maintenance;

(D) imaging or copying of investigation documents; and

(E) mail processing; and

(4) the term “quality review process” means performing the final quality review of a background investigation to ensure investigative, administrative, and other required standards have been met before the completed background investigation is delivered to the adjudicating agency.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING TO PREVENT ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the date of enactment of this Act, a contract may not be entered into, and an extension of or option on a contract may not be exercised, with a contractor to conduct a quality review process relating to background investigation fieldwork services or background investigation support services if the contractor is performing the services to be reviewed.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2061), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENHANCE LABELING, ACCESSING, AND BRANDING OF ELECTRONIC LICENSES ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 570, S. 2583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2583) to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill S. 2583 was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014” or the “E-LABEL Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Federal Communications Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) first standardized physical labels for licensed products such as computers, phones, and other electronic devices in 1973, and the Commission has continually refined physical label requirements over time.

(2) As devices become smaller, compliance with physical label requirements can become more difficult and costly.

(3) Many manufacturers and consumers of licensed devices in the United States would prefer to have the option to provide or receive important Commission labeling information digitally on the screen of the device, at the discretion of the user.

(4) An electronic labeling option would give flexibility to manufacturers in meeting labeling requirements.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC LABELING.

Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 720. OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC LABELING OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘electronic labeling’ means displaying required labeling and regulatory information electronically; and

“(2) the term ‘radiofrequency device with display’ means any equipment or device that—

“(A) is required under regulations of the Commission to be authorized by the Commission before the equipment or device may be marketed or sold within the United States; and

“(B) has the capability to digitally display required labeling and regulatory information.

“(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRONIC LABELING.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014, the Commission shall promulgate regulations or take other appropriate action, as necessary, to allow manufacturers of radiofrequency devices with display the option to use electronic labeling for the equipment in place of affixing physical labels to the equipment.”.

SEC. 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The amendment made by section 3 shall not be construed to affect the authority of

the Federal Communications Commission under section 302 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 302a) to provide for electronic labeling of devices.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 492, S. 2673.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask unanimous consent that the Boxer amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3933) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To designate Israel as a program country under the Visa Waiver Program if Israel complies with the generally applicable requirements)

Beginning on page 8, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 9, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

The bill (S. 2673), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2673

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people and the Governments of the United States and of Israel share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.

(2) Today, the people and Governments of the United States and of Israel are facing a dynamic and rapidly changing security environment in the Middle East and North Africa, necessitating deeper cooperation on a range of defense, security, and intelligence matters.

(3) From Gaza, Hamas continues to deny Israel’s right to exist and persists in firing rockets indiscriminately at population centers in Israel.

(4) Hezbollah—with support from Iran—continues to stockpile rockets and may be seeking to exploit the tragic and volatile security situation within Syria.

(5) The Government of Iran continues to pose a grave threat to the region and the

world at large with its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

(6) Given these challenges, it is imperative that the United States continues to deepen cooperation with allies like Israel in pursuit of shared policy objectives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the security of Israel as a Jewish state;

(2) to reaffirm the principles and objectives enshrined in the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150) and ensure its implementation to the fullest extent;

(3) to reaffirm the importance of the 2007 United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on United States assistance to Israel and the semi-annual Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Israel;

(4) to pursue every opportunity to deepen cooperation with Israel on a range of critical issues including defense, homeland security, energy, and cybersecurity;

(5) to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System; and

(6) to support the Government of Israel in its ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinian people that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER.

It is the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking “more than 10 years after” and inserting “more than 11 years after”.

(b) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “and 2014” and inserting “, 2014, and 2015”.

SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Israel—

(1) has adopted high standards in the field of export controls;

(2) has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and

(3) is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on October 26, 1979.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for

a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, subject to existing law—

(1) to undertake activities in cooperation with Israel; and

(2) to provide assistance promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President is authorized, subject to existing requirements of law and any applicable agreements or understandings between the United States and Israel—

(1) to share and exchange with Israel research, technology, intelligence, information, equipment, and personnel, including through sales, leases, or exchanges in kind, that the President determines will advance the national security interests of the United States and are consistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent provisions of law; and

(2) to enhance scientific cooperation between Israel and the United States.

(c) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized, subject to existing law, to enter into cooperative research pilot programs with Israel to enhance Israel's capabilities in—

- (1) border, maritime, and aviation security;
- (2) explosives detection; and
- (3) emergency services.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON INCREASED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report, in a classified format or including a classified annex, as appropriate, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding United States-Israeli cooperation on cyber issues, including sharing and advancing technologies related to the prevention of cybercrimes.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SEC. 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF 2012.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, to the extent practicable and in an appropriate manner, provide an update to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current and future efforts undertaken by the President to fulfill the objectives of section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act (22 U.S.C. 8603).

SEC. 11. IMPROVED REPORTING ON ENHANCING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE AND SECURITY POSTURE.

(a) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT REEVALUATIONS.—Section 201(c) of the Naval Vessel

Transfer Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—Two years after the date on which each quadrennial report is transmitted to Congress, the President shall—

“(A) reevaluate the assessment required under subsection (a); and

“(B) inform and consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the results of the reevaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).”.

(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—A determination under paragraph (1) relating to the sale or export of major defense equipment shall include—

“(A) a detailed explanation of Israel's capacity to address the improved capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(B) a detailed evaluation of—

“(i) how such sale or export alters the strategic and tactical balance in the region, including relative capabilities; and

“(ii) Israel's capacity to respond to the improved regional capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(C) an identification of any specific new capacity, capabilities, or training that Israel may require to address the regional or country-specific capabilities provided by such sale or export; and

“(D) a description of any additional United States security assurances to Israel made, or requested to be made, in connection with, or as a result of, such sale or export.”.

SEC. 12. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 917(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “possible many” and inserting “possible—

“(A) many”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(and

“(B) significant contributions to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the established programs of the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation.”;

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) United States-Israel energy cooperation and the development of natural resources by Israel are in the strategic interest of the United States;

“(9) Israel is a strategic partner of the United States in water technology;

“(10) the United States can play a role in assisting Israel with regional safety and security issues;

“(11) the National Science Foundation of the United States, to the extent consistent with the National Science Foundation's mission, should collaborate with the Israel

Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;

“(12) the United States and Israel should strive to develop more robust academic cooperation in—

“(A) energy innovation technology and engineering;

“(B) water science;

“(C) technology transfer; and

“(D) analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response;

“(13) the United States supports the goals of the Alternative Fuels Administration of Israel with respect to expanding the use of alternative fuels;

“(14) the United States strongly urges open dialogue and continued mechanisms for regular engagement and encourages further cooperation between applicable departments, agencies, ministries, institutions of higher education, and the private sector of the United States and Israel on energy security issues, including—

“(A) identifying policy priorities associated with the development of natural resources of Israel;

“(B) discussing and sharing best practices to secure cyber energy infrastructure and other energy security matters;

“(C) leveraging natural gas to positively impact regional stability;

“(D) issues relating to the energy-water nexus, including improving energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, water treatment in gas and oil production processes, and other water treatment refiners;

“(E) technical and environmental management of deep-water exploration and production;

“(F) emergency response and coastal protection and restoration;

“(G) academic outreach and engagement;

“(H) private sector and business development engagement;

“(I) regulatory consultations;

“(J) leveraging alternative transportation fuels and technologies; and

“(K) any other areas determined appropriate by the United States and Israel;

“(15) the United States—

“(A) acknowledges the achievements and importance of the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

“(B) supports continued multiyear funding to ensure the continuity of the programs of the foundations specified in subparagraph (A); and

“(16) the United States and Israel have a shared interest in addressing immediate, near-term, and long-term energy, energy poverty, energy independence, and environmental challenges facing the United States and Israel, respectively.”

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 917(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable energy or energy efficiency” and inserting “covered energy”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) natural gas energy, including conventional and unconventional natural gas technologies and other associated technologies, and natural gas projects conducted by or in

conjunction with the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation; and

“(I) improvement of energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, and other water treatment refiners.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “energy efficiency or renewable” and inserting “covered”.

(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS; REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—

(1) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may enter into cooperative agreements supporting and enhancing dialogue and planning involving international partnerships between the Department, including National Laboratories of the Department, and the Government of Israel and its ministries, offices, and institutions.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may not pay more than 50 percent of Federal share of the costs of implementing cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—If the Secretary enters into agreements authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that describes—

“(A) actions taken to implement such agreements; and

“(B) any projects undertaken pursuant to such agreements.

“(d) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY CENTER.—The Secretary may establish a joint United States-Israel Energy Center in the United States leveraging the experience, knowledge, and expertise of institutions of higher education and entities in the private sector, among others, in offshore energy development to further dialogue and collaboration to develop more robust academic cooperation in energy innovation technology and engineering, water science, technology transfer, and analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response.”; and

(D) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking “the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

(2) CONSTRUCTIVE REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of State shall continue the ongoing diplomacy efforts of the Secretary of State in—

(A) engaging and supporting the energy security of Israel; and

(B) promoting constructive regional energy cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO OFFER REWARDS FOR INFORMATION ON THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF JAMES FOLEY AND STEVEN SOTLOFF

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 574, S. 2778.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2778) to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2778) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2778

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REWARDS AUTHORIZED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Rewards for Justice program authorized under section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)), the Secretary of State shall offer a reward to any individual who furnishes information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of any individual for committing, conspiring or attempting to commit, or aiding or abetting in the commission of the kidnapping and murder of James Foley or Steven Sotloff.

(b) LIMITATION.—The total amount of rewards offered under subsection (a) may not exceed \$10,000,000, and the total amount of rewards offered in connection with the kidnapping and murder of either one of the individuals named in such subsection may not exceed \$5,000,000.

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY JOHNSON

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2793 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2793) to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2793) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2793

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY JOHNSON FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR I.

(a) **WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Henry Johnson for the acts of valor during World War I described in subsection (b).

(b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Henry Johnson while serving as a member of Company C, 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, during combat operations against the enemy on the front lines of the Western Front in France on May 15, 1918, during World War I for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4980, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4980) to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4980) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IMPROPER PAYMENTS AGENCY COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 260, S. 1360.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1360) to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Coburn substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3934) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 1360), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 420 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 420) designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as "Naturopathic Medicine Week" to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 420) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 10, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 479 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 479) recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment to the

preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 479) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3935) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

In the 6th whereas clause of the preamble, strike "marines" and insert "Marines".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 479

Whereas the United States, pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40), commenced a war against individuals responsible for the 9/11 attacks;

Whereas in the intervening 13 years, members of the United States Armed Forces have engaged in warfare around the globe, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas there have been 2,600,000 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 500,000 soldiers have completed multiple tours;

Whereas over 110,000 sailors have deployed as individual augmentees in support of the war ashore and additional sailors have deployed on navy vessels serving over 180,000 days at sea, providing power projection, regional stability, and global presence;

Whereas over 238,000 airmen have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 201,000 airmen have deployed to the Area of Responsibility, delivering flights in support of the war effort;

Whereas over 330,000 Marines have deployed afloat and ashore, ensuring peace in some of the most dangerous provinces in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and January 10, 2014, 287,911 cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI), often referred to as a signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 7,100 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas of the members of the Armed Forces who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, more than 6,800 have been killed in action and more than 52,000 have been wounded in action;

Whereas United States Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn combat military operations in Iraq are complete and United States direct military operations in Afghanistan will end in 2014 as the United States transitions to a training and assistance role;

Whereas the sacrifices of United States servicemembers and their families during the last 13 years should be recognized by all citizens of the United States;

Whereas November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of hostilities in World War I, and Veterans Day has been a legal holiday since May 13, 1938, when it was originally dedicated as "Armistice Day" to honor veterans of World War I and was subsequently amended to honor United States veterans of all wars in 1954; and

Whereas November 11th is the day for the Nation to reflect on the service and sacrifice of every generation of veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for

all who have served in the United States Armed Forces since September 14, 2001;

(2) promotes awareness of the services and contributions of all post-9/11 veterans; and

(3) encourages communities in the United States to plan activities for Veterans Day 2014 to honor and support all who have served during this time and to provide citizens of the United States an opportunity to present unified recognition of the service and sacrifices of post-9/11 veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 529.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 529) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and commending its members for their courage and sacrifice in service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 529) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 30, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAQ

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 575, S. Res. 530.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 530) expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which was reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble and an amendment to the title.

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas Iraq is currently embroiled in a surge of violence arising from an ISIL-led offensive that began in Anbar province and has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit, and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability;

Whereas, on June 29, 2014, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi renamed the group the Islamic State and pronounced himself Caliph of a new Islamic caliphate encompassing the areas under his control, and Mr. al-Baghdadi has a stated mission of spreading the Islamic State and caliphate across the region through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims, and unsupportive Sunnis;

Whereas Iraq's population is approximately 31,300,000 people, with 97 percent identifying themselves as Muslim and the approximately 3 percent of religious minorities groups comprising of Christians, Yazidis, Sabeen-Mandaeans, Bahais, Shabaks, Kakais, and Jews;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian population is estimated to be between 400,000 and 850,000, with two-thirds being Chaldean, one-fifth Assyrian, and the remainder consisting of Syriacs, Protestants, Armenians, and Anglicans;

Whereas the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating that "no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy," "no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms stipulated in this Constitution," and "[this Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean Sabeans";

Whereas the fall of Mosul in particular has sparked enough anxiety among the Christian population that, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no Mass in that city;

Whereas over 50 percent of Iraq's Christian population has fled since the fall of Saddam Hussein, and the government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did not uphold its commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities;

Whereas the United States Government has provided over \$73,000,000 of cumulative assistance to Iraq's minority populations since 2003 through economic development, humanitarian services, and capacity development;

Whereas 84,902 Iraqis have resettled to the United States between 2007 and 2013 and over 300,000 Chaldean and Assyrians currently reside throughout the country, particularly in Michigan, California, Arizona, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, "Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to promoting and to protecting religious freedom around the world;

(2) calls on the Department of State to work with the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, neighboring countries, the diaspora community in the United States, and other key stakeholders to address the urgent plight of those Iraqi minority groups seeking safety and protection from persecution in Iraq;

(3) respectfully requests the Government of Iraq to prioritize the issue of protecting religious minorities and take concrete action to enact and enforce laws protecting religious freedom; and

(4) urges the President to ensure the timely processing of visas for Iraq's minority groups fleeing religious persecution, in accordance with

existing United States immigration law and national security screening procedures.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 530), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)."

RECOGNIZING THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 572, S. Res. 541.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 541) recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas Ebola hemorrhagic fever is an extremely infectious virus that causes severe illness with a fatality rate that can well exceed 50 percent;

Whereas Ebola is spread through contact with blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids of infected humans and animals and can have an incubation period of up to 21 days;

Whereas the Ebola virus first appeared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976 and has afflicted communities in Africa at least 20 times since then;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak first occurred in February 2014 in forested areas of southeastern Guinea and subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently discovered the outbreak of a separate strain of the virus;

Whereas this is the first outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and the biggest and most complex to date, due to its emergence in populated, transient border areas, making containment a significant challenge;

Whereas, to date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ebola had infected more than 4,400 people in West Africa and caused nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak has occurred in countries with some of the weakest health systems in the world facing severe shortages of healthcare workers, laboratories essential for testing and diagnosis, clinics and hospitals required for treatment, and medical supplies and protective gear, such as latex gloves and face masks required to prevent contamination of health facilities;

Whereas these weak and inadequate healthcare facilities, a lack of health staff trained in Ebola response, and misconceptions about the virus have resulted in numerous infections of health workers and patients unable to receive appropriate response and care;

Whereas effective countermeasures for stemming the spread of Ebola, such as isolation, meticulous infection control practices, case investigation, and contact tracing require more trained personnel and resources than are currently available in West Africa;

Whereas, although Ebola can be contained with good public health and burial practices, it continues to spread due to a lack of accurate public information, insufficient treatment facilities, limited local language capacities required for health education, and an unwillingness to allow those infected to be isolated from family members;

Whereas governments are collaborating closely with international donors and taking strong measures to contain the virus, including announcing states of emergency and establishing emergency response centers;

Whereas the limitations on transportation and travel and closing of businesses have had a devastating economic impact throughout the region and may cause social instability and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis if not properly managed and offset;

Whereas the international community has committed to support solutions to the current limitations on air traffic and establish a common operational platform to address acute problems associated with food security, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, primary and secondary health care, and education, as well as the longer-term recovery effort that will be needed in the face of the complex social consequences of this emergency;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda have sent experts familiar with such outbreaks to Liberia to assist with the outbreak response, and the Governments of Senegal and Ghana have agreed to serve as logistics and coordination centers for the international assistance effort, providing vital corridors for supplies and personnel;

Whereas, after visiting affected communities in West Africa, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden said on September 2, 2014, "There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing... we need action now to scale up the response.";

Whereas the United States Government has provided more than \$175,000,000 in support through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and the United States Armed Forces since February 2014 and intends to mobilize additional resources and support as announced by President Obama on September 16, 2014;

Whereas the United States Government helped to fund the development of the Zmapp biopharmaceutical experimental drug that was given to United States health workers afflicted with the virus and was recently donated to Liberian doctors with encouraging effect and has prompted calls for further research and development of such vaccines;

Whereas, on August 5, 2014, the United States Government deployed a multi-agency Disaster

Assistance Response Team composed of staff from Federal agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Forest Service to coordinate the United States Government's response efforts;

Whereas the World Health Organization published on August 28, 2014, a roadmap for scaled-up response that aims to stop the virus in 6 to 9 months and calls for 750 international and 12,000 local health workers to contribute to the halt of the Ebola outbreak; and

Whereas, earlier this year, the United States Government joined with partner governments, the World Health Organization, other multilateral organizations, and nongovernmental actors to launch the Global Health Security Agenda, a 5-year commitment to prevent, detect, and effectively respond to infectious disease threats such as Ebola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 541) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, is as follows:

S. RES. 541

Whereas Ebola hemorrhagic fever is an extremely infectious virus that causes severe illness with a fatality rate that can well exceed 50 percent;

Whereas Ebola is spread through contact with blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids of infected humans and animals and can have an incubation period of up to 21 days;

Whereas the Ebola virus first appeared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976 and has afflicted communities in Africa at least 20 times since then;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak first occurred in February 2014 in forested areas of southeastern Guinea and subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently discovered the outbreak of a separate strain of the virus;

Whereas this is the first outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and the biggest and most complex to date, due to its emergence in populated, transient border areas, making containment a significant challenge;

Whereas, to date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ebola had infected more than 4,400 people in West Africa and caused nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak has occurred in countries with some of the weakest health systems in the world facing severe shortages of healthcare workers, laboratories essential for testing and diagnosis, clinics and hospitals required for treatment, and medical supplies and protective gear, such as latex gloves and face masks required to prevent contamination of health facilities;

Whereas these weak and inadequate healthcare facilities, a lack of health staff

trained in Ebola response, and misconceptions about the virus have resulted in numerous infections of health workers and patients unable to receive appropriate response and care;

Whereas effective countermeasures for stemming the spread of Ebola, such as isolation, meticulous infection control practices, case investigation, and contact tracing require more trained personnel and resources than are currently available in West Africa;

Whereas, although Ebola can be contained with good public health and burial practices, it continues to spread due to a lack of accurate public information, insufficient treatment facilities, limited local language capacities required for health education, and an unwillingness to allow those infected to be isolated from family members;

Whereas governments are collaborating closely with international donors and taking strong measures to contain the virus, including announcing states of emergency and establishing emergency response centers;

Whereas the limitations on transportation and travel and closing of businesses have had a devastating economic impact throughout the region and may cause social instability and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis if not properly managed and offset;

Whereas the international community has committed to support solutions to the current limitations on air traffic and establish a common operational platform to address acute problems associated with food security, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, primary and secondary health care, and education, as well as the longer-term recovery effort that will be needed in the face of the complex social consequences of this emergency;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda have sent experts familiar with such outbreaks to Liberia to assist with the outbreak response, and the Governments of Senegal and Ghana have agreed to serve as logistics and coordination centers for the international assistance effort, providing vital corridors for supplies and personnel;

Whereas, after visiting affected communities in West Africa, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden said on September 2, 2014, "There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing... we need action now to scale up the response.";

Whereas the United States Government has provided more than \$175,000,000 in support through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and the United States Armed Forces since February 2014 and intends to mobilize additional resources and support as announced by President Obama on September 16, 2014;

Whereas the United States Government helped to fund the development of the Zmapp biopharmaceutical experimental drug that was given to United States health workers afflicted with the virus and was recently donated to Liberian doctors with encouraging effect and has prompted calls for further research and development of such vaccines;

Whereas, on August 5, 2014, the United States Government deployed a multi-agency Disaster Assistance Response Team composed of staff from Federal agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Forest Service to coordinate the United States Government's response efforts;

Whereas the World Health Organization published on August 28, 2014, a roadmap for

scaled-up response that aims to stop the virus in 6 to 9 months and calls for 750 international and 12,000 local health workers to contribute to the halt of the Ebola outbreak; and

Whereas, earlier this year, the United States Government joined with partner governments, the World Health Organization, other multilateral organizations, and non-governmental actors to launch the Global Health Security Agenda, a 5-year commitment to prevent, detect, and effectively respond to infectious disease threats such as Ebola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the severe immediate threat that Ebola poses to populations, governments, and economies in Africa;

(2) recognizes that the limited capacity of the initial outbreak countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to combat the epidemic has been exhausted and the potential threat to regions beyond Africa if this, the largest of all Ebola outbreaks, is not contained;

(3) expresses support for those affected by this epidemic and affirms its sympathy for victims of Ebola and their families;

(4) supports the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their ongoing efforts to combat the Ebola virus in their countries and regionally;

(5) urges citizens of affected countries to respect preventative guidelines provided by their governments and medical professionals from Africa and around the world in order to stem the outbreak;

(6) supports the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Forest Service, and other United States Government agencies providing technical, logistical, and material support to address the Ebola crisis in West Africa;

(7) encourages deepened United States and international commitments to the global Ebola response;

(8) welcomes the delivery of assistance and increased engagement from donors such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Government of Canada;

(9) expresses support for the promotion of investments in global health in order to ensure that governments can better prevent and detect, contain, and eventually eliminate outbreaks of disease while also providing other essential health services;

(10) supports the World Health Organization's Ebola Response Roadmap and a common operational platform in response to the crisis;

(11) encourages the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone to work together and with other nations and regional and subregional organizations to establish institutional emergency response systems to more effectively respond to this and future outbreaks of Ebola and other highly infectious diseases;

(12) welcomes proactive measures taken by governments in West Africa to formulate national plans of action in response to the crisis; and

(13) recognizes the work of thousands of African, United States, and international officials and volunteers on the ground in West Africa, particularly healthcare workers, who are working diligently and at great risk to help address this multidimensional crisis, and encourages other healthcare workers and logisticians to volunteer.

DON'T TAX OUR FALLEN PUBLIC SAFETY HEROES ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2912, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2912) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2912) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2912

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act".

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

Subsection (a) of section 104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting "; and", and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) amounts received pursuant to—

"(A) section 1201 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796); or

"(B) a program established under the laws of any State which provides monetary compensation for surviving dependents of a public safety officer who has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty,

except that subparagraph (B) shall not apply to any amounts that would have been payable if death of the public safety officer had occurred other than as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 571, S. Res. 572, S. Res. 573, S. Res. 574, and S. Res. 575.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 44, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, September 18 through Wednesday, November 12, the majority leader and Senators ROCKEFELLER, REED of Rhode Island, CARPER, COONS, and CARDIN be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, THROUGH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session, unless the Senate receives a message from the House that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, the adjournment resolution: Monday, September 22 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, September 25 at 12 noon; Monday, September 29 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 2 at 12 noon; Monday, October 6 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, October 9 at 12 noon; Monday, October 13 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 16 at 12 noon; Monday, October 20, at 10:15 a.m.; Thursday, October 23 at 12 noon; Monday, October 27 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 30 at 12 noon; Monday, November 3 at 12 noon; Thursday, November 6 at 12 noon; and Monday, November 10 at 12 noon; and that when the Senate

adjourns on November 10, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014; further, that if the Senate receives a message that the House has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, for a pro forma session only, and that following the pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until Wednesday, November 12, at 2 p.m.; that on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately proceed to vote on cloture on the Moss and May nominations, as provided for under the previous order, and that this be the first rollcall vote of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, there will be two rollcall votes on cloture on the nominations of Randolph Moss to be United States district judge for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to be United States district judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, AT 4 P.M.

Mr. PRYOR. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:31 p.m., conditionally adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2014, at 4 p.m.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

Senate passed H.J. Res. 124, Continuing Appropriations Resolution.

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 44, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5725–S5881

Measures Introduced: Sixty-two bills and sixteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2851–2912, S. Res. 561–575, and S. Con. Res. 44.

Pages S5781–84

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Inquiry Into Cyber Intrusions Affecting U.S. Transportation Command Contractors”. (S. Rept. No. 113–258)

Report to accompany S. 1898, to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies. (S. Rept. No. 113–259)

Report to accompany S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse. (S. Rept. No. 113–260)

Report to accompany S. 2651, to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. (S. Rept. No. 113–261)

H.R. 1232, to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–262)

H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–263)

S. Res. 530, expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from

the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 540, recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

S. Res. 541, recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic, and with an amended preamble.

S. 1217, to provide secondary mortgage market reform, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2581, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers.

S. 2778, to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

S. 2828, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, with amendments.

Page S5779

Measures Passed:

Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 4323, to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

Page S5763

Continuing Appropriations Resolution: By 78 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 270), Senate passed H.J.

Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, after taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Pages S5737–64

Withdrawn:

Reid Amendment No. 3851, of a perfecting nature.

Pages S5737, S5764

Reid Amendment No. 3852 (to Amendment No. 3851), of a perfecting nature. (By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 268), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.)

Pages S5737, S5755, S5763–64

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 73 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 269), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the joint resolution.

Page S5764

Reid motion to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3853, of a perfecting nature, fell when cloture was invoked on the joint resolution.

Pages S5737, S5764

Reid Amendment No. 3854 (to the instructions (Amendment No. 3853) of the motion to commit), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 3853 fell.

Pages S5737, S5764

Reid Amendment No. 3855 (to Amendment No. 3854), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 3854 fell.

Pages S5737, S5764

125th Anniversary of the State of South Dakota: Senate agreed to S. Res. 566, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of South Dakota.

Pages S5770

Indigenous Clean-Energy Resources: Senate passed H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S5861–62

Pryor (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 3928, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S5861

Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments: Senate passed H.R. 594, to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy.

Page S5862

Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2600, to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure

Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums, and the bill was then passed.

Page S5862

Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act: Senate passed H.R. 3043, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

Page S5862

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe—Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act: Senate passed H.R. 3716, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Page S5862

IMPACT Act: Senate passed H.R. 4994, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning.

Page S5862

Examination and Supervisory Privilege Parity Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5062, to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S5862–63

Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act: Senate passed H.R. 5404, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Page S5863

Federal Data Center Consolidation Act: Senate passed S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S5863–65

Pryor (for Carper) Amendment No. 3929, to modify the provision relating to waiver of requirements.

Page S5864

Pryor (for Bennet) Amendment No. 3930, to clarify reporting requirements for the Department of Defense.

Page S5864

Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act: Senate passed S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S5865–72

Pryor (for Carper) Amendment No. 3931, to improve the bill.

Page S5868

Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act: Senate passed S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5872–73**

Pryor (for Crapo) Amendment No. 3932, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5872**

Preventing Conflicts of Interest with Contractors Act: Senate passed S. 2061, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S5873–74**

E-LABEL Act: Senate passed S. 2583, to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. **Page S5874**

United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act: Senate passed S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5874–76**

Pryor (for Boxer) Amendment No. 3933, to designate Israel as a program country under the Visa Waiver Program if Israel complies with the generally applicable requirements. **Page S5874**

James Foley and Steven Sotloff: Senate passed S. 2778, to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff. **Page S5876**

Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. 2793, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5876–77**

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act: Senate passed H.R. 4980, to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery. **Page S5877**

Improper Payments Agency Cooperation Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 1360, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5877**

Pryor (for Carper/Coburn) Amendment No. 3934, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5877**

Naturopathic Medicine Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 420, designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as “Naturopathic Medicine Week” to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5877**

Welcome Home Commemoration: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 479, recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special “Welcome Home Commemoration” for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5877–78**

Burr (for Pryor) Amendment No. 3935, of a perfecting nature. **Page S5877**

100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 529, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and commending its members for their courage and sacrifice in service to the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5878**

Protect Religious Minorities From Persecution: Senate agreed to S. Res. 530, expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5878**

Ebola Outbreak in West Africa: Senate agreed to S. Res. 541, recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic. **Pages S5878–80**

Compensation Received by Public Safety Officers: Senate passed S. 2912, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income. **Page S5880**

United States and India Partnership Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 571, designating September 30, 2014, as “United States and India Partnership Day”. **Page S5880**

United States Submarine Force: Senate agreed to S. Res. 572, congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of

4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols. **Page S5880**

50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act: Senate agreed to S. Res. 573, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. **Page S5880**

National Estuaries Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 574, designating the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, as “National Estuaries Week”. **Page S5880**

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 575, designating September 2014 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”. **Page S5880**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 44, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page S5880**

House Messages:

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the amendment of the House to S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Page S5772**

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill. **Page S5772**

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date. **Page S5772**

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to Amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5772**

Reid motion to refer the House Message on the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3925, to change the enactment date. **Page S5772**

Reid Amendment No. 3926 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3925), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5772**

Reid Amendment No. 3927 (to Amendment No. 3926), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5772**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Page S5772**

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the Senate’s recess, committees be

authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **Page S5880**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S5880**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, September 18, 2014 through Wednesday, November 12, 2014, the Majority Leader, and Senators Rockefeller, Reed, Carper, Coons, and Cardin be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S5880**

Pro Forma—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, and convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session, unless the Senate receives a message from the House of Representatives that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives: Monday, September 22, 2014 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, September 29, 2014 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, October 6, 2014 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, October 13, 2014 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, October 20, 2014 at 10:15 a.m.; Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, October 27, 2014 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, November 3, 2014 at 12 noon; Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 12 noon; Monday, November 10, 2014 at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on November 10, 2014, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., on Wednesday, November 12, 2014; and that if the Senate receives a message that the House of Representatives has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, Senate adjourn until 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 for a pro forma session only, and that following the pro forma session, Senate adjourn until 2 p.m., on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. **Page S5881**

Moss Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Page S5771**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 18, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. **Page S5771**

May Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Pages S5771–72**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 18, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. **Page S5772**

Moss and May Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia; that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, that at 2:15 p.m., on Thursday, November 13, 2014, all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote, and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length. **Page S5772**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Ireland. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs). **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Pages S5764–65, S5843**

Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S5764–65, S5843**

Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. **Pages S5764–65, S5842**

Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization. **Pages S5765, S5843**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Francine Berman, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Victoria Ann Hughes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2016.

Eric P. Liu, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 27, 2017.

Joseph Pius Pietrzyk, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2017.

Deborah Willis, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2020.

Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2019.

Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2018.

Maria Echaveste, of California, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States.

Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali.

Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan.

Richard Rahul Verma, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India.

Allison Beck, of the District of Columbia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Joan Marie Azrack, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Alfred H. Bennett, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Loretta Copeland Biggs, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Elizabeth K. Dillon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Jill N. Parrish, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S5842

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, which was sent to the Senate on January 6, 2014.

Alison Renee Lee, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, which was sent to the Senate on January 6, 2014.

Page S5843

Messages from the House: Pages S5772–73

Measures Referred: Page S5773

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S5773

Executive Communications: Pages S5773–79

Petitions and Memorials: Page S5779

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S5779–81

Additional Cosponsors: Page S5784–87

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S5787–S5801

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: Pages S5801–41

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S5841–42

Privileges of the Floor: Page S5842

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today.
(Total—270) Page S5764

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:31 p.m., until 4 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5881.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine assessing and enhancing protections in consumer financial services, including S. 635, to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement, and H.R. 5130, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions, after receiving testimony from Travis B. Plunkett, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Oliver I. Ireland, Morrison and Foerster, and Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP Washington Bureau, all of Washington, D.C.; and Sheri Ekdom, LSS Center for Financial Resources, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported 13 resolutions relating to General Services Administration.

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Carolyn Watts Colvin, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2828, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, with amendments;

S. 2778, to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff;

S. Res. 530, expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, an amendment to the preamble, and an amendment to the title;

S. Res. 541, recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations,

governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic, with an amendment to the preamble;

S. Res. 540, recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations; and

The nominations of Donald L. Heflin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Judith Beth Cefkin, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, Benjamin L. Cardin, of Maryland, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Ronald H. Johnson, of Wisconsin, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, James Peter Zumwalt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Robert T. Yamate, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Rep-

resentative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, and a list in the Foreign Service.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine overcoming persistent barriers to economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities, after receiving testimony from Tennessee State Senator Becky Massey, Sertoma Center, Knoxville; Geoffrey M. Lauer, Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, Iowa City; Ann Wai-Yee Kwong, University of California Berkeley, El Monte; Alison M. Lozano, New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, Trenton; and Justin Herbst, Western Springs, Illinois.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1690, to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007, with amendments;

S. 2646, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Madeline Cox Arleo, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Wendy Beetlestone, Mark A. Kearney, Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., and Gerald J. Pappert, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Victor Allen Bolden, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Armando Ormar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Stephen R. Bough, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, David J. Hale, and Gregory N. Stivers, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 147 public bills, 5525–5671; and 17 resolutions, H.J. Res. 126–127; H. Con. Res. 116–117; and H. Res. 734–746 were introduced. **Pages H7781–87**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7892–94**

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.R. 5077, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide guidance and clarification regarding issuing new and renewal permits, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–604).

A report was filed on July 29, 2014 as follows: H.R. 4709, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–605, Pt. 1).

Page H7881

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Collins (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7679**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Seretta McKnight, Union Baptist Church, Hempstead, New York. **Page H7679**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:05 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine. The House reconvened at 12:01 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. **Page H7680**

Joint Meeting To Receive His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine: The House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine. He was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives McCarthy (CA), Scalise, McMorris Rodgers, Walden, Jenkins, McKeon, Royce, Frelinghuysen, Granger, Rogers (MI), Gerlach, Turner, Pelosi, Hoyer, Clyburn, Israel, Becerra, Slaughter, Quigley, Kaptur, Pascrell, Levin, Brown (FL), and DeLauro; and Senators Reid, Durbin, Murray, Stabenow, Menendez, Murphy, McConnell, Cornyn, Blunt, Barrasso, and Corker. **Pages H7680–83**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions to authorize 12 prospectuses, including two alteration projects, one construction project, and three leases, included in the General Services Administration's FY2014 and FY2015 Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 17, 2014. **Pages H7691–H7772**

Recess: The House recessed at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H7772**

Jobs for America Act: The House passed H.R. 4, to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 253 yeas to 163 nays, Roll No. 513. **Pages H7684–91, H7772, H7854–58**

Rejected the Bishop (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 191 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 512.

Pages H7854–57

H. Res. 727, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2) and (H.R. 4), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 227 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 511, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 226 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 510. **Pages H7684–91, H7772–73**

American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act: The House passed H.R. 2, to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; and to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 226 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 515. **Pages H7684–91, H7819–60**

Rejected the Schneider motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 193 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 514.

Pages H7853–54, H7859

Agreed by unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 2 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule 20. **Page H7819**

H. Res. 727, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2) and (H.R. 4), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 227 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 511, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 226 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 510. **Pages H7684–91, H7772–73**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 6:01 p.m. **Page H7854**

Providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to S.J. Res. 40, to provide for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. **Page H7860**

Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 707, as amended by Representative Royce, to condemn all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere. **Pages H7860–62**

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of James Foley and Steven Sotloff: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 734, to express the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and to condemn the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. **Page H7862**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon tomorrow, September 19th. **Page H7862**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages H7772, H7877.

Senate Referrals: S. 2651 was referred to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Homeland Security; S. 2141 was held at the desk. **Page H7772**

Discharge Petition: Representative Wilson (FL) presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committees on Ways and Means, Small Business, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Budget from the consideration of H.R. 2821, a bill to provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs (Discharge Petition No. 12).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7772, H7773, H7857–58, H7858, H7859, H7859–60. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BENEFITS OF PROMOTING SOIL HEALTH IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AMERICA

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry held a hearing on the benefits of promoting soil health in agriculture and rural America. Testimony was heard from Jason Weller, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture; Shanon Phillips, Director, Water Quality, Oklahoma Conservation Commission; and public witnesses.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY FOR THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Administration's Strategy for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)". Testimony was heard from Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General William Mayville, USA, Director for Operations, J-3, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT: HELPING LOVED ONES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Suicide Prevention and Treatment: Helping Loved Ones in Mental Health Crisis". Testimony was heard from former Member Lincoln Diaz-Balart; Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak, Acting Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

THE ISIS THREAT: WEIGHING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The ISIS Threat: Weighing the Obama Administration's Response". Testimony was heard from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, Department of State.

THE STRUGGLES OF RECOVERING ASSETS FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a joint hearing entitled "The Struggles of Recovering Assets for Holocaust Survivors". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SAFEGUARDING PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES WHILE KEEPING OUR SKIES SAFE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding Privacy and Civil Liberties While Keeping Our Skies Safe”. Testimony was heard from Stephen Sadler, Assistant Administrator, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; Christopher M. Piehota, Director, Terrorist Screening Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Jennifer A. Grover, Acting Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

OVERSIGHT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations held a hearing on oversight of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Testimony was heard from Michele M. Leonhart, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration.

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing on oversight of the U.S. Copyright Office. Testimony was heard from Maria A. Pallante, Register of Copyrights and Director, U.S. Copyright Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 69, the “Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013”; H.R. 706, the “Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Establishment Act”; H.R. 712, to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024; H.R. 1363, the “Exploring for Geothermal Energy on Federal Lands Act”; H.R. 1839, the “Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act of 2013”; H.R. 3226, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3227, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3326, the “Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2013”; H.R. 3608, the “Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act”; H.R. 3980, the “Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act”; H.R. 3981, the “Accelerated Revenue, Repayment, and Surface Water Storage Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4166, the “Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act of 2014”; H.R. 4534, the “Native American Children’s

Safety Act”; H.R. 4846, the “Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014”; H.R. 5003, the “Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014”; H.R. 5040, the “Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act”; H.R. 5049, the “Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014”; H.R. 5050, the “May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act”; H.R. 5139, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; H.R. 5162, to amend the Act entitled “An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center” to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes; H.R. 5167, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; H.R. 5412, the “Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act”; H.R. 5476, the “Cabin Fee Act of 2014”; S. 363, the “Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2013”; and S. 609, the “San Juan County Federal Land Conveyance Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 69, H.R. 706, H.R. 712, H.R. 1839, H.R. 3226, H.R. 3227, H.R. 3326, H.R. 3980, H.R. 3981, H.R. 4166, H.R. 4534, H.R. 4846, H.R. 5003, H.R. 5139, H.R. 5167, H.R. 5412, H.R. 5476, and S. 609. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1363, H.R. 3608, H.R. 5040, H.R. 5049, H.R. 5050, H.R. 5162, and S. 363.

EXAMINING OBAMACARE’S FAILURES IN SECURITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining ObamaCare’s Failures in Security, Accountability and Transparency”. Testimony was heard from Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Greg Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Ann Barron-DiCamillo, Director, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, Department of Homeland Security.

PROTECTING INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled “Protecting International Religious Freedom”. Testimony was heard from Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Department of State; Katrina Lantos Swett,

Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; and public witnesses.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU: ADDRESSING DATA COLLECTION VULNERABILITIES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census held a hearing entitled “U.S. Census Bureau: Addressing Data Collection Vulnerabilities”. Testimony was heard from John H. Thompson, Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Todd Zinser, Inspector General, Department of Commerce.

THE SCIENCE OF DYSLEXIA

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Science of Dyslexia”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cassidy and Brownley of California and public witnesses.

AN UPDATE ON THE SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH OPTIONS PROGRAM: IS IT WORKING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES?

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Health and Technology held a hearing entitled “An Update on the Small Business Health Options Program: Is It Working for Small Businesses?”. Testimony was heard from Mayra Alvarez, Director, State Exchange Group, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and public witnesses.

THREAT POSED BY THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT, AL-QA’IDA, AND OTHER ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al-Qa’ida, and other Islamic Extremists”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “21st Century Cures: Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development”, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled “Islamist Foreign Fighters Returning Home and the Threat to Europe”, 9:15 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled “Oversight of the DHS Headquarters Project at St. Elizabeths: Impact on the Taxpayer”, 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on H.R. 4924, the “Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

4 p.m., Monday, September 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Friday, September 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Unless the Senate receives a message from the House of Representatives that it has agreed to S. Con. Res. 44, Adjournment Resolution, Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 12 noon.



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